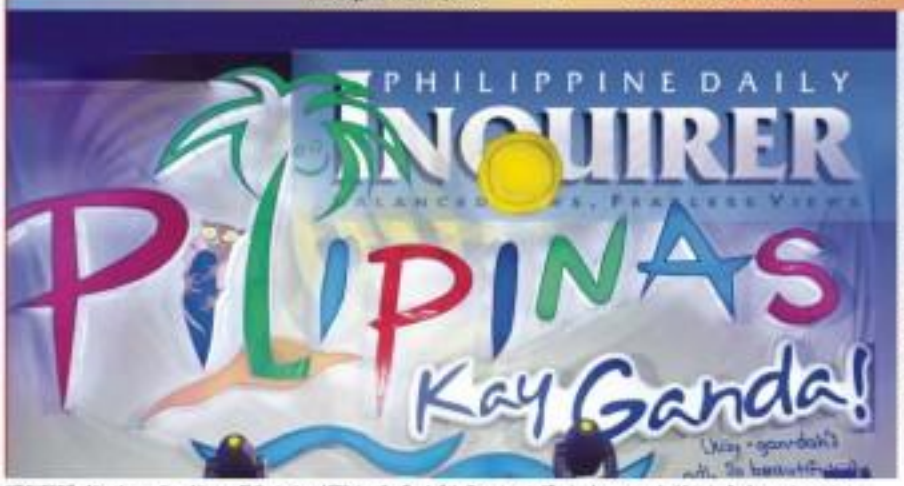
Thursday, November 18, 2010 ★★★ Kamiboses / Vol. 35 / No. 343 P18



"IT SUCKS!" After the unveiling of the new Philippine brand "Pilipinas Kay Ganda," the Department of Tourism has come under blistering fire from various sectors, including lawmakers who panned the replacement of "WOW Philippines" as "grossard," and without creativity. Why fix what doesn't need fixing? EDITORIAL CARTOON

No 'wow' factor in tourism's new slogan

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ONE OF THE SNEE remarks on the Department of Tourism's new campaign slogan came from Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who told reporters yesterday that she thought the new brand "is just lameness, and ignorance is boring."

NO 'WOW'? A4

Miriam: P-Noy execs bunch of lightweights

By Christian V. Esguerra and Christine O. Avendaño

CALLING members of President Aquino's official family a bunch of "lightweights," Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday vowed to block the confirmation of "half a dozen" of Cabinet members.

PROBES A4

Noy: Massacre trial should be aired live

DOJ bats for transparency, people's right to know

THE PEOPLE should be given the chance to watch live on TV or hear on radio the ongoing trial of the accused in the Maguindanao massacre so that past mistakes will not be repeated, President Aquino said yesterday.

The President effectively sided with the media and the families of the 57 massacre victims, including at least 30 media workers, in their call for the Supreme Court to reconsider its earlier decision to bar live coverage of the trial.

Mr. Aquino said he was adding this appeal to his "list" of other appeals to the Supreme Court, with which he had been at odds on a number of issues.

The high court had ruled against live coverage of the Maguindanao massacre trial to keeping with its earlier ruling to bar live coverage of the plunder trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

To expedite the resolution of the case, Judge Jocelyn Solis Reyes yesterday ordered that hearings be held twice a week starting next month.

Justice Secretary Leila de Li-

NOY MASSACRE A9

RELENTLESS PROTEST A Filipina journalist takes part in Wednesday's silent protest next to the accused inside a jail facility in Taguig City, where a special court is trying members of the powerful Ampatuan clan for the worst political massacre in the Philippines. AFP

SLAIN BOTANIST

'Gunfire came from one direction'

By Elvin Ross and Joey Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

ORMOC CITY—Leonardo Co, one of the country's foremost botanists and biodiversity experts, and two of his companions might have been mistaken for communist rebels when they were shot and killed in a forested area in Kananga, Leyte, on Monday, according to a survivor.

Policarpio Balute, 33, a farmer who served as one of Co's two guides, said the shooting started in Upper Mahiao, Barangay Liacon, but added that he did not hear any responding volley of gunfire from any direction that could indicate an ongoing battle between Army soldiers and New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

Military officers have said that Co, a consultant of Lopez-owned Energy Development Corp. (EDC), company forest guard Nolfredo D. Cortez, and Co's other guide, Julius Hermoso, died in a crossfire during the encounter, according to

GUNFIRE A6

No lotto winner; prize up P535M

By Tina G. Santos

THE WAIT is still on for the lottery who will win the 6/55 Grand Lotto as no one won the over P400 million jackpot during Wednesday night's draw.

In a text message, assistant general manager Lisa Gabayo of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office said no one was able to correctly guess the six number combination of 53-09-48-24-50-29.

The prize reached P485,597,276.80, earmarked the second holder for the biggest lotto jackpot in PCSO history.

The next draw for the 6/55 Grand Lotto is on Saturday night. Gabayo said the jackpot is expected to reach P535 million.

'Noy is President, why not order his family to be just?'

By Tarra Quismundo
Inquirer Central Luzon

TARLAC CITY—For the sixth straight year, Shirley Cariap joined a protest to mark the anniversary of the massacre of seven workers at Hacienda Luisita, the sprawling sugar plantation owned by the family of President Aquino.

But this one is as much for her, her three young children and husband Marvin as for the farm workers slaughtered in

HOT! A6

Prince William seals engagement with Diana's ring

PRINCE WILLIAM'S fiancee Kate Middleton said she was elated but happy to be marrying into Britain's royal family next year after he proposed, offering her his late mother Diana's engagement ring.

The couple faced the world's media after announcing on Tuesday they would marry in 2011 following an eight-year courtship, with William saying he had felt it was the right time to propose.

The couple will marry in London next year in what will be Britain's biggest royal wedding since his parents Prince Charles and the then Lady Diana Spencer married at St. Paul's Cathedral in July 1981.

William, 28, said the sapphire-and-diamond that his father, the heir to the throne, gave Diana in 1981—the pair showed it off the members of a press conference exactly three decades ago—was "very special to me."

William said giving Kate the ring "was my

PRINCE A8

THE NEW ROMANTICS Prince William and his fiancee Kate Middleton pose for the media in London on Tuesday after they announced their engagement.

Billionaire Manny earns another P1B

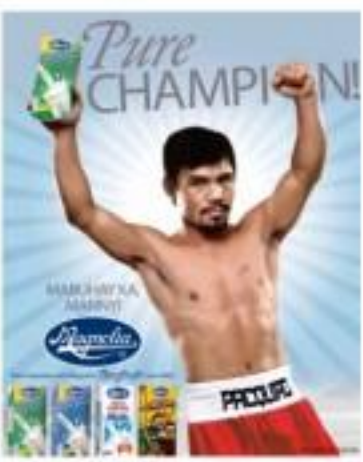
By Roy Luarca

HOLLYWOOD—Already three times a billionaire, Manny Pacquiao has at least another billion pesos coming for battering Mexican Antonio Margarito in submission in Texas last weekend.

That is before the taxman lops off a big chunk of it. But for all intents and purposes, boxing's pound-for-pound king no longer needs to work for the rest of his life, unless he overindulges and blows it all away.

For his 12-round, 36-minute work in the ring with Margarito, Pacquiao earned an estimated $25 million, equivalent to P1.1 billion. This translates to $694,000 or P30.5 million per minute.

BILLIONAIRE A9



WHAT'S INSIDE

WORLD / A24
Naked scanners in 65 US airports touch raw nerve

SPORTS / A18
Smart Gilas-PH five bow to Iranian giants in Asian Games

BUSINESS / B1
P&G investing P2.5B to expand facility here

ACROSS / A16
Raped nurse gets wish to see Kris, Chiz

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The eastern section of Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Butuan	Mostly Cloudy

Courtesy of PAGASA, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration

Second FRONTPAGE

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EZ2
2D: 10 24
3D: 20 21
4D: 1 2

SUERTRES
2D: 1 3 1
3D: 1 7 0
4D: 6 3 4

FOUR DIGIT (Swertres)
7 5 5 9

MEGA645
2 4 13 19 22 29

P38,844,261.00

6/55 GRAND LOTTO
9 24 29 45 50 53

P495,597,376.80

LOTTO: TAYO 1-42 LOTTO; valid to 6/45. PCSO draws

Dismantle militias, Aquino urged

By Lolit A. Solouerta and TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT Aquino should order the dismantling of all paramilitary units in light of a Human Rights Watch (HRW) report that they have been involved in human rights abuses, according to the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

"A mere executive order from President Aquino is all it takes to dismantle the paramilitary units. This can greatly reduce the kind of abuses that ruthless human rights groups have monitored over the years. The Magsaysaysan measure should be the last of its kind. No longer should paramilitary units be allowed to become private armies," Bayan secretary-general Renato Reyes said in a statement.

Private army

Human Rights Watch, in a report released the other day, said the paramilitary forces were strengthened during the Arroyo administration.

The American watchdog, whose members are the main suspects in the Maguindanao massacre, had committed atrocities with the help of their own private army, the HRW said.

Reyes urged the Aquino administration to look into former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's role in the alleged abuses committed by the Ampatuans.

The HRW report said that Arroyo had deputized on the Ampatuans for votes and had not done anything about reports of the clan's involvements in killings.

"Mr. Aquino must find ways to investigate her and make her accountable," Reyes said.

The other civilian and military officials who also ignored the abuses in Maguindanao should not be spared scrutiny as well, he added.

Dependence on military

However, he noted that Mr. Aquino's dependence on the military could make him vulnerable on the abuses attributed to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

"Mr. Aquino's reliance on the military to stabilize his regime has made him careful in dealing with the abuses blamed on the AFP. This could be a continuing major factor in his decision whether or not to dismantle the paramilitary groups and investigate top officials," Reyes said.

Bayan Muna party-list member Teddy Casiño said that unless the policy employing paramilitary groups as a "multiplier force" against communist guerrillas and Muslim secessionists is scrapped, the problem of unaccountable would persist.

"The solution is not to expedite investigation of the Maguindanao massacre, but to ensure that the policy framework that gave rise to the Ampatuans and other warlord groups be reversed," he said.

Meanwhile, Eduardo Ermita, Arroyo's executive secretary said he was "upset" as the HRW claim that the Arroyo administration failed to address human rights violations by backing militia forces.

He said that the HRW could have easily checked the country's human rights records that are with the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council and other UN human rights committees.

Ermita's lament

He said the Arroyo government had been commended for the measures it had taken in the last few instances that it submitted compliance reports to the UN Human Rights Council in 2009 and last year.

"The high level of acrimonious coming from these international human rights bodies really tells us that something is indeed amiss in the manner that the HRW has pronounced its case in this regard," he said in a statement.

Ermita demanded that the HRW present "hard facts" on charges that military operations were being sold to local officials to help them farm private armies.

"If the HRW remains a watchdog that helps at any work in the bushes and overlooks the whole neighborhood for no significant reason, it loses relevance in the universe of things," he said.

GMA accountable for Ampatuans, says DOJ chief

By Marlon Ramos

FORMER PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should be made accountable for the atrocities allegedly committed by the Ampatuan clan in Maguindanao during her administration, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said yesterday.

Reacting to a report of the New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW), De Lima said there was "basis" in saying that the Arroyo administration was "partly responsible" for the unsolved killings and culture of violence in Maguindanao.

"At the very least, the evidence made clear. Ampatuans are powerful. They became untouchables," De Lima told reporters.

"The past administration was known as the rule of law was not followed," she said.

Arroyo and her officials' indifference to the growing hostilities in Maguindanao "created the climate of fear" in the area, according to De Lima.

"They just let the Ampatuans (do what they wanted). So others have said, they created monsters out of these people," she said.

Asked if Arroyo, now a Pampanga representative, should be held liable for the Ampatuans' crimes, she said, "That should be solidly ascertained. It should be determined if there was command responsibility there."

She said the HRW was right when it said that someone should be made liable for the dozens of unsolved killings in the province.

"The complicated angle there is the fact that the previous administration seems dependent on the Ampatuans in its campaign against the rebel forces there," she said, noting that the Ampatuans had used this to secure weapons from the government arsenal.

This situation was unchecked for years "until it went out of control," she said.

"The government probably shouldn't have let that happen," she said.

De Lima said she would direct the newly created investigative arm of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to look into the HRW report.

She said the NBI's death investigation division could conduct "preliminary validation" of the HRW's conclusions since the human rights group was not a government entity.

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No 'wow' factor in DOT's new campaign slogan

From page A1

Santiago had misgivings about the brand not being in English, considering that the target was foreign tourists.

She also said very little controversy in the phrase. "Let's think of something else. Let's start some neurons in our brains working. [The tourism officials'] neurons are not working. They're not on full right cylinders ... [and] two cylinders," she said, adding:

"We have to find our niche because we have many competitors in Southeast Asia. We cannot just have 'a beautiful country' because everyone says that."

Sen. Loren Legarda also expressed disagreements with the replacement of the 8-year-old brand "WOW Philippines."

"We do what doesn't need fixing. We always think that when the past administration did was wrong," she stated.

Said Sen. Jose Miguel Zubiri in a privilege speech: "Change is good. No problem. But if we're going to change the slogan, let's come up with a more understandable ... slogan throughout the world. I have nothing against our Filipino language if the target market is the local market."

More snags

"Pilipinas Kay Ganda" has hit a few more snags.

A day after the "so beautiful" brand was launched, the DOT was forced to divide its freshly overhauled website after receiving urgent requests to remove certain content on Twitter that a porn site had been using a "very similar" name.

"We're very thankful with the vigilance of our citizenry, especially online," Tourism Undersecretary Victoria Romantic III said the day before yesterday in an e-mail.

"Date-jamming out of name important issues keeps us on our toes and helps us to respond quickly and assess errors," he said.

Romantic, who is in charge of tourism planning and promotions, said the search was continuing for an appropriate name to connect tourism assets to the "Pilipinas Kay Ganda" campaign.

"The problem is many of the tourism-related names are already taken," he said.

He also said the short-lived website was not yet the "full-fledged website" that the tourism department was planning as part of its digital strategy to promote the new brand, which has drawn widespread flak.

Typos, etc.

Apart from the slogan and the website's name, the contents of the site were also not spared criticisms, mostly because of the typos and grammatical errors in some pages.

Agusan Finance Primar quoted Evelyn Macapagaloy of the tourism department as saying that "the write-ups were not thoroughly edited."

"There were errors, and there are some allegations of plagiarism, that we copied from other websites," Macapagaloy said.

Still, she defended the new slogan. "It raises awareness. It invokes pride in our identity," she said.

Romantic said the tourism department would "just review every page and correct errors before we republish, hopefully in three to four weeks."

He said that the short-lived website was "just a facelift of the current website" and "really just an interim one," and that the development of a permanent one had yet to be laid out.

Romantic promised that the new site, when launched early next year, would have a fresh "look and feel."

"It will be[ ] with polished content ... and more eye-catching features, and all the bells and whistles," he said.

'WOW' stat

If there's someone truly unhappy with "Pilipinas Kay Ganda," it's Boracay Sen. Richard Gordon, who conceived of "WOW Philippines" during his stint as tourism secretary.

In a phone interview yesterday with the Inquirer, Gordon said the new brand would create a problem in terms of selling the idea to foreign countries.

"You have to sell the language first, but it takes time and the budget is limited," he said.

Gordon lamented "the lack of sense of continuity" in the country.

"We have little money and we don't let one branding grow," he said. "I am not saying that 'WOW Philippines' is the best because I made it ... but simply because it gained attraction in spite of limited resources."

Gordon said that while pushing something with a long name like the Philippines was a challenge, "WOW" provided a nickname for the country that helped to communicate the message quickly.

"WOW" officially stood for "Wealth of Wonders," but it also meant "We're very Winner" to endorse the Philippines' sparkling beaches, "Wells we Wonder" to promote Boracay in Manila, or "Watch our Wonder" to market Damai to foreigners, which is known for the bantering (w'onder drama).

Revitalizing interest

Gordon said that instead of dropping the "WOW" brand, the new tourism administration should have focused on how to revitalize interest in Philippine destinations following the typhoons that ravaged parts of Luzon in January and the August hostage crisis.

He also said using the vernacular in the slogan was a good way of enticing Filipinos abroad to explore and rediscover the country, but not foreigners.

Senate colleagues agreed that "WOW Philippines" was better.

"It wasn't exactly exceptional as an advertising tagline, but it was acceptable," she said. "Nobody thought of a foreign country saying 'wow' when he comes to the Philippines." With reports from Christine Avendaño and AFP

From page A1

help to alleviate the situation ... and if Mommy can do that, we should at this for sure."

Said Lanao del Norte Rep. Fatimah Alladi Dimaporo: "Manny Pacquiao [is] an icon of sports. He's the epitome of the Filipinos. At a very young age, he has shown that with hard work and perseverance, he can attain anything he wishes to attain."

Lagman went as far as to suggest that Pacquiao hold his next fight in Manila to boost tourism.

"It may not be as profitable as his foreign fights, but definitely he will be giving back to his athletic admirers and steadfast followers in the country that have sufficient facilities, which can rival the rest of the world with respect to holding a grand boxing event," Lagman said.

'What'd understand it?'

But Lagman said Pacquiao should be tapped, "not with the personal slogan."

"I have to be translated," Lagman said of the new brand. "Filipinas Kay Ganda."

"Who among the foreigners, Germans and Englishmen alike, would understand that if you don't translate it?" he said.

Lagman wondered what the Department of Tourism found wrong with "WOW Philippines."

"If there's nothing wrong with it, why change it?" he said. (See related story on Page A11)

He observed that politics might have had something to do with the change, saying "anything which the Arroyo administration originated, the present administration would like to jettison."

Pacman's House colleagues want him tourism poster boy

By TJ Burgonio

WOW PACQUIAO The best news the Philippines has ever had in recent memory.

THE BOXING CHAMP draws hundreds of thousands of people to his blockbuster fights to push brands and statistics in the United States. Why not make him the Philippines' poster boy for tourism?

Manny Pacquiao's colleagues in the House of Representatives' minority are pushing this idea to the Aquino administration, but with the caveat that it should stick with the old western slogan "WOW Philippines."

"I think Manny Pacquiao is not only a boxing icon [but also] a tourism magnet for the Philippines," Minority Leader Edcel Lagman (a yo-yo) told reporters in a briefing.

Lagman and Zambales Rep. Mitchgin Magsaysay said the administration should take advantage of Pacquiao's international fame to help promote Philippine tourism hobbled by a bungled hostage rescue and adverse travel advisories.

Pacquiao further cemented his No. 1 status in the boxing world when he beat Mexican Antonio Margarito in Texas on Saturday night to capture his eighth world title.

'Beyond politics'

"Pacquiao is beyond politics," Magsaysay said. "There's no majority, there's no minority. So if Manny can do a good job selling not country, then who not? At the end of the day, we should all

From page A1

Tall order

But Mr. Aquino indicated that it might be a tall order for Santiago in the end because she still had to convince other members of the commission on Appointments to vote with her.

"At the end of the day, does she convince the rest of the members or not?" he said.

Santiago earlier said she would block the appointment of Education Secretary Armin Luistro, who opposed years ago her entry into the faculty of De La Salle University. Before joining the Cabinet, Luistro served as president of La Salle.

Veto power

Without naming names, Santiago said she would invoke for the first time Section 20 of the commission's rules, which empowers any member of the body to "move for the suspension of the consideration of any nomination."

"I call it a one-person veto power," she said. "That's why our commission is (said to be) very powerful. Just one person can veto the 25 other members of the commission."

She said the nominees would have to "pass through the eye of a needle before I motivate myself to do invoking Section 20."

The senator said she would identify the Cabinet officials "at a later time." But apparently at the top of her list at present is Luistro whose nomination she earlier promised to block for "political deafness."

"When right down he have to run the public school system of the Philippines? He is a product just he is working in a private school, in a private university. Does he understand the sentiments of public school students and faculty?" she asked.

Lagman went on to say: "I'm going to reassure these people," Santiago said at a joint conference where she questioned the credentials of Cabinet nominees in general.

"This is a very lightweight Cabinet. Boy, Boy are so lightweight! Boy are able to blast off from our shadows of grandeur," she said.

Mr. Aquino shrugged off Santiago's threat: "She's entitled to her opinion. She still has to carry out what she believes are her functions," the President told reporters upon learning that the senator promised to make life hard for some members of his Cabinet.

Miriam: P-Noy execs bunch of lightweights

From page A1

Santiago described Luistro's response as "a very good attitude" and hinted that she might withdraw her opposition to his appointment.

"I would change my mind. I'm not going to be intransigent. I'm not going to be blindly vindictive," she said.

Aquino Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa said on the list of "lightweight" Cabinet officials, she said "No. I have met him personally. He has sound ideas, very surprisingly, on how to work as executive secretary for the President."

But Santiago said some members of Mr. Aquino's Cabinet got the job only by virtue of their being a "political groups, the type who made a candidate's rush until he wins."

"They should be declared really as enemies of society because they inadvertently have the President's own conception of himself," she said.

"They undercut the President when their kind of knowledge is not what is demanded by public service, but the ability to produce those votes as nominees for an Oscar award or what-over the award is called in Tagalog."

Santiago said she would invoke Section 20 because of some nominees' supposedly "mediocre" credentials such as their academic records.

"I call it lightweight because under the Constitution, the only criteria are moral (and) fitness," she said.

"I interpret morality to mean (that) you should possess a curriculum vitae that manifests academic excellence. You should not have been a mediocre student. If you didn't graduate with honors, you should have graduated from one of the top 10 universities in the country," she added.

Referring to one particular official, she said: "This man (see 2) and is committing a crime against the Philippine government and society."

Six ambassadors confirmed by CA

THE COMMISSION on Appointments yesterday approved the nominations of six ambassadors. They were Consuelo Paguia Reyes (Chile), Mercedes Tuason Lhuby Soo), Noe Wong (Costa Rica), Manuel Lopez (Cayman), Carlos Salinas Dipeni and Wilfredo Villacorta (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).

Lucinio has promised to look into the senator's concerns in connection with his nomination.

Puno is new UP regent

By Norman Bordadora

RETIRED Chief Justice Reynato Puno is back in the government service as a member of the 17-person Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines.

The board is the highest policy-making body of the state university.

Other new appointees to the board are Magdalena Albarracin of the UP College of Engineering and sculptress Elena Borja Reyna, better known in media industry as Ms. Beth Orozco.

President Aquino administered the three's oaths of office yesterday in Malacañang.

Mr. Aquino first offered the post of secretary of justice to Puno when it was clear he had won the presidential election but had yet to assume the office.

Puno, who retired from the Supreme Court on May 17, hopped off.

The Chief Justice told the Presidential News Desk that Presidential Aquino reminded the appointees of the programs he wants to see in UP to restore the state university to its premiere status.

He said the President also asked him to go over the UP development plan.

Lim won't admit guilt in amnesty hearing

Noynoy vows compensation for human rights victims

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday said he would ensure the compensation of victims of human rights violations under the Marcos regime a day after a lawyer for the claimants said no Filipino president has been so indecisive in addressing the victims with recovered ill-gotten wealth.

Robert Swift, the legal counsel of compensation claimants, has said that past presidents, including the late former President Corazon Aquino, wasn't keen on drawing from the Marcos ill-gotten wealth to compensate the rights violation victims.

President Aquino said that when he was still a congressman, he supported a bill that amended the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program so that part of the proceeds from recovered Marcos wealth that otherwise would all go to the land reform program may also be funneled to the compensation fund.

"Eh I didn't pass and wasn't around, but during my term, we will ensure that it will happen," Mr. Aquino told reporters when asked about the need for compensating victims of the martial law regime.

Mr. Aquino reiterated the need for a law that will amend the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law and provide part of the proceeds of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth to the victims.

In an interview with journalists and claimant Honorible Bona, Swift said that the President's mother was interested in the compensation of rights victims because her eldest son's among those tortured.

Not much interest was drawn from former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada, Swift said. He indicated that his cause for compensation was met with hostility under the administration of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

The compensation bill was almost passed during the former administration but eventually fell short of getting enacted.

"I think when both [then Mr. Aquino-Ong.] Erin Tañada and I were Congress people, we were in support of their advocacies to have their compensation up to and including amending the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law that same law, actually that all the proceeds go to them," President Aquino said.

"I will be supporting that," he added.

President Aquino also sought to defend his mother's position on the compensation issue saying that Ms. Aquino took over after the Edsa Revolution ousted Marcos in 1986, the priority was identifying the ill-gotten wealth and its recovery.

Mr. Aquino said the process of compensation would have to start at identifying who the victims are.

LIM

By TJ Burgonio

ACCUSED coup plotter and retired general Danilo Lim yesterday invoked the constitutional provision on the Armed Forces as the "protector of the people" to justify the 2006 Marine standoff and the 2007 Manila Peninsula.

Lim told lawmakers who rejected him to admit guilt for his role in those uprisings as a condition to apply for amnesty that there were "no soldiers committing crimes."

"Sec 3, Article 2 of the Constitution provides that if you're a soldier, and take your duty seriously, you should be ready at all times to fight oppression, to fight injustice, corruption, excesses, illegitimacy, even if the target is the government itself. We protect the people against their own government," Lim told the joint hearing of the House committees on justice and national defense on President Aquino's amnesty proclamation.

Proclamation 50 grants amnesty to officers, enlisted men and dozen civilian supporters who took part in the July 2003 failed coup, also known as the Oakwood mutiny, the Marine stand-off, the Manila Peninsula siege, and other related incidents. It voids the convictions of Congress.

No regrets

The issue of whether admission of guilt by rebel soldiers was a precondition for the grant of amnesty dominated a large part of the three-hour-long hearing.

Lim expressed no regret for taking part in an "uprising" against then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, not a lawmaker from Pampanga's second district.

But on his lawyer's advice, he stopped short of making a statement about his guilt as that would be used against him in cases before the courts should the amnesty fail through.

Asked by Bikol rep. Leodegario Edcel Lagman if he was aware of a ruling that a person who refuses to admit guilt is not entitled to amnesty, Lim asserted that there was also jurisprudence that says a plea of not guilty is not a bar to amnesty.

"If you're expecting me to apologize or admit guilt, I was advised by my lawyer that there is still a pending case, and this can be used against me," he said.

Since he was no longer in active service, Lim said he could not engage in a future adventurism.

Antiterror Czarist Rep. Hermilando Mandanas if he would support a future one, he said: "It depends on the situation, your honor."

Despite their refusal to admit guilt, Lim, and retired colonel Ariel Querubin, a key player in the Marine standoff, said they would apply for amnesty with the Department of National Defense.

Implied admission

Querubin agreed with Iloilo Rep. Oscar Garin Progreso's contention that an application for amnesty would be an "implied admission of guilt."

Lagman, Iloilo Rep. Neil Tupas Jr., the justice committee chair, and other lawmakers agreed that an admission of guilt was a condition for amnesty, citing jurisprudence.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima disagreed, saying neither law nor jurisprudence requires an admission of guilt or remorse as a condition for amnesty.

"Otherwise it would destroy the very concept of amnesty," she said.

De Lima said that the oft-quoted SC ruling in the 1986 Ocampo v. People 1 1968 did not apply in the Proclamation 50 case.

"I don't think Ocampo v. People applies the matter. I don't think it overruled the Barrioquinto v. Fernandez case. I think there's a need for us to evaluate the factual milieu of Ocampo v. People before we can articulate that admission of guilt or remorse is needed," she said.

The Vera case states that "amnesty presupposes the commission of a crime, and where the accused maintains that he has not committed a crime, he cannot have any use for amnesty."

The Barrioquinto case of 1949 states that "amnesty is a public act of which the courts should take cognizance."

Tupas said the Barrioquinto case had been overruled not only by the Vera case, but by "a long line of SC cases and it's in this view that we'll look at the proclamation."

In death, hostage taker faces rap

By Marlon Ramos

IS IT possible to file a complaint against a respondent who is dead?

The Manila Police District (MPD) believes so, as it filed a case of serious illegal detention last Oct. 28 against Rolando Mendoza, the dismissed police captain who held hostage a busload of Hong Kong tourists at the Luneta last Aug. 23.

At the end of the day-long hostage drama, eight of the hostages were dead, as was Mendoza.

"How can a dead man defend himself in court?" asked a flabbergasted Public Attorney's Office (PAO) chief Persida Acosta.

Acosta was speaking during the preliminary hearing of a similar case filed against Mendoza's brother, policeman Gregorio Mendoza, at the Department of Justice.

"Should he be found guilty, how do they intend to jail a dead man?" she later told reporters.

Acosta assailed the MPD for making Gregorio as an accomplice in the case against the hostage-taker.

She noted that the police had already named Gregorio as principal accused in an earlier case of conspiracy to commit serious illegal detention.

According to the PAO chief, she was not informed that the MPD had filed a new case against Gregorio "over the same offense using the same set of evidence."

"This is a violation of the accused's constitutional rights if the accused becomes subject to be charged twice over the same offense using the same set of evidence," she said.

Dennis Nagar, the head of the MPD-District legal office, said it was not the first time that the police had filed a criminal complaint against a deceased person.

He said that it was necessary to include Mendoza as the principal accused to "establish" Gregorio's liability.

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MILF: Let Malaysian monitor stay

COTABATO CITY—The separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has adopted a resolution formally asking Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to retain the Malaysian facilitator of the peace talks, Othman Abdul Razak.

The resolution, adopted by the MILF central committee, objected to the government's demand to replace Othman.

"The retention of Malaysia would ensure continuity and preservation of the gains of the peace process," the MILF said.

The government's chief peace negotiator, Marvic Leonen, last Tuesday said the government has sent a request to Malaysia, which is brokering the talks with the MILF to replace Othman.

Leonen said the government would have some difficulty working with Othman, but did not say what the government's objections to him were. But other officials previously involved with the talks said Othman was biased toward the rebels.

The government earlier expressed a desire to replace Malaysia with Indonesia as the third-party facilitator of the talks.

Malacañang has announced that talks with the MILF would resume after Ramadhan, which ended Sept. 19.

Jun Montarsot, the head of the MILF peace panel secretariat, said replacing Othman would not be a good idea at all.

"A new facilitator, no matter how competent, will first grope in the dark before he sets sure the talks into the right direction," he said.

He said Othman had over the years shown his impartiality, competence, sensitivity and commitment to push the peace process.

He challenged Othman's critics to present evidence that would prove that he has not been even handed during the negotiations.

"All the agreements signed were discussed and deliberated separately across the negotiating table and were mutually agreed by the parties," Montarsot said.

Edwin G. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, November 18, 2010
33rd Week in Ordinary Time
Dedication of the Basilicas of Peter and

Read / Say Philippine Daybook

1st Reading: Rev 5:1–10
Gospel: Lk 19:41–44

When Jesus had come in sight of Jerusalem, he wept over it and said, "If only today you knew the ways of peace! But now your eyes are hid from seeing. Yet days will come upon you when your enemies will surround you with barricades and close you in and press on you from every side. And they will dash you to the ground and your children with you, and leave not a stone within you, for you did not recognize the time and the visitation of your God."

"If you only knew today what is needed for peace."

As often we ignore the good that must be done

everywhere around the world
and build instead a false security based on power.

But real peace, ultimate peace, comes only from doing good to others

so that we can all live in the Peace of Christ.

Gunfire came from one direction, says survivor

From page A1

the military.

The scientist was collecting seedling specimens for an EDC project with a five-member team when the shooting took place. His body arrived on Tuesday night at the Funeraria Paz de Malacañang Avenue, Quezon City.

Co was also considered the best plant taxonomist in the country and had pushed for forest conservation and restoration using native tree and plant species. The Bagtikan hemandi, an endemic parasitic plant species and one of the biggest flowers in the Philippines, was named after him.

Co's death is a continued loss of gunfire. There was no answer to gunfire. None. That was what I feared, about 20 minutes of gunfire," Bobot, a member of the Empanan Farmers Association (TAS) told reporters on Tuesday.

The other survivor, Bonifacio Gibe, a seasonal farmer with EDC's corporate responsibility department, was suffering from shock and was admitted to the hospital of the Dreams Angat area Farmers Association.

Family doubts

In Quezon City, Co's family also expressed doubts that he had died in a crossfire or that a clash between soldiers and rebels had taken place. His wife, Glenda, said they found out the deaths' confirmation, he died from three bullet wounds in the back.

"My lone witness doubts on the military statement that there was an encounter and if it was there was, it was irresponsible of them to engage in a firefight, knowing there were civilians in the area," said Dennis Flores, Co's brother-in-law and the family spokesperson.

"We wanted a thorough investigation report on what really happened because we observed inconsistencies in the military's statement," Flores said.

Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Raymundo Magpayo promised an impartial probe. "We will investigate if we had lapses," he said on Wednesday during the welcome ceremony for the peacekeeping forces from Gulan Heights.

"If the soldiers' (troops had) any responsibility then as hero 500 will do the right thing or the necessary measures so that no one address the problem," Magpayo said.

Military confidence

But the highest ranking military officer in the Visayas said "we are quite confident that it was not our soldiers" who shot Co and his research team.

"I cannot say as of now (who hit the victims), but based on our initial reports they were not," it's very difficult Do somebody that they were the ones who hit the civilians," Lt. Gen. Ralph Villanueva, chief of the military's Central Command (Centcom), said in a phone interview on Wednesday.

Bobot said he dropped to the ground upon hearing the gunfire and other armed resistance he can recall from the area, calling on his companions to do the same. He said he were huddled down a chilly portion.

He said he ran and barely caught up with an EDC service vehicle that was about to drive away with the other victims.

Lt. Col. Federico Tesoro, commanding officer of the 39th Infantry Battalion, dismissed reports that there was no armed encounter and that Co and his companions were ambushed to be part of an NPA group. He said the soldiers were unaware that there were civilians in the area.

Unfair to judge

In a press conference in Tacloban City on Wednesday, Tesoro denied as having said that the military fired the first shot.

He said it would be unfair at this time to judge his men and put the blame on them as the autopsy conducted by a medical team coming from the Philippine National Police had yet to come out.

"They (soldiers) are being blamed (over the death of the three civilians). My men were not trained to kill civilians. I placed my trained battalion men there," he said in a press conference here on Sunday.

Before the shooting started, Tesoro said, the soldiers saw a person wearing black and holding an M-16 rifle, prompting them to encounter a similar formation to ensure ground. He said one of the soldiers was wrestled that he hit one of the suspected rebels.

"There was a volume of fire. The bullets ricocheted to different directions," he said.

Tesoro added that, as early as Nov. 12, the soldiers received an intelligence report that NPA members were planning to attack the EDC complex as they were on "heightened alert and always on a combat mode."

Survivor's account

Co's wife, Glenda, said she had talked to Gibe, one of the survivors, who narrated what happened. She said she was told that Co was still alive but wounded after the first gunshots were heard.

"He said that when we first heard the sign of gunfire from the ground, another burst of gunfire hit him in the back," she said.

She said Gibe survived because he had hidden a huge tree.

"After the second volley of gunfire, Bibo (Gibe) said he held up his hands and shouted, 'Huwag po, huwag po' (Stop it), and the gunfire suddenly stopped," the wife said.

She said that EDC people arrived immediately after the shooting and brought her husband to a hospital.

Independent probe

Worse, the family spokesperson said, Manila-based employees of EDC demand a military statement that it was the communist rebels who killed them of the NPA presence in the area.

Environmentalists on Wednesday called for an independent investigation of the "tragic death" of Co and his companions even as they held the Army and the Lopez-owned EDC responsible for failing to secure their safety.

Their deaths brought to 36 the number of environmentalists killed in the country since 2001, according to the Kalikasan-People's Network for the Environment. It charged that soldiers and militiamen were behind most of the killings.

In a statement, the group demanded a "thorough and independent" investigation of the Leyte incident, "especially since it involves powerful corporations, as well as the military."

The group said the Army "apparently did not conduct detailed protocols to validate and secure the presence of civilians in the area, especially since the environmental research team was said to have gotten clearance from the military to conduct research."

Two senators condoned the death of Co as a big blow to the Philippines as a source of herbal medicine by local and international pharmaceutical companies.

People's scientist

Sen. Edgardo Angara said his sons subscribed to know that even scientists were getting caught in the crossfire between the military and rebels, especially since they were mostly deployed to highly forested areas without any social or war protection.

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'Noy is our President, why can't he order his family to be just?'

From page A1

soldiers and police dispersed striking laborers in front of Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT) on May 16, 2004.

Group, 19, joined a crowd of 200 at Gate 1 of the sugar mill for a rally organized by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and of local peasant leaders.

Many of the participants each got joined a memorial of 40 strikers killed and early in the morning from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) at Quezon Memorial Circle to protest the lack of progress in the government's investigation of the massacre.

Clarita of "Justice for victims of Hacienda Luisita" erupted from the crowd that included many-eyed parents and relatives of the victims.

Amid the grieving, all that Co up wants now is to earn a piece of the hacienda, preferably at Barangay Asturias where his family lives.

"Life is more bitter now in Luisita," she said.

It was in this 6,453-hectare sugar estate where Cangin has lived and worked as an alleged (daily wage earner) since his teens until October 2004 when farm workers joined the CAT labor Union strike.

The mill resumed operations in 2005 after the DZF management paid salary differentials and granted some benefits to workers.

But Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI)—formed in 1989 by Cojuangco family-owned Tarlac Development Corp. (Tadeco) and other farm lots (CAT) farm workers who agreed to receive shares of stock instead of land—has stopped planting sugarcane.

Unresolved court case

This was after the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order in the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) and the DAR on a move to redistribute Hacienda Luisita to farm workers.

The Mayumi ng mga Manggagawang Bukid in Asturias Luisita (Ambala) and the United Luisita Workers Union asked the DAR in 2003 to cancel the stock distribution option (SDO) and distribute land to farmers.

The workers claimed that the SDO had not improved their lives contrary to the objectives of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) program, instead, during the Ilocos Agrarian administration.

Cangin is unfamiliar with the details of the dispute, or even previous agrarian conflicts with the government since Jose Cojuangco bought Hacienda Luisita from its Spanish owners in 1957 using government-issued bonds.

What she sees, I had to find work as laundry woman or house cleaner in the city," she said.

Twice in three a week, she skips her meals so her children can have more food to eat. Hunger is usual when she earns a canon of this for every 10 cantons she harvests for a planter. Her husband's earning as a jueteng bet collector isn't enough.

Dim outlook

"The chance of getting land looks dimmer because we heard the Cojuangcos are talking to a Chinese investor," Cangin said, referring to news reports that a China-based company was looking to lease 6,000 ha of land in plant sugarcane.

Fernando Tolentino, 54, took note that his wife and daughter made other people's clothes while he's out of work. He became regular like in a group of 30 farmers that land that Ambala has assigned to him for the group's bungkalan (till-ing) project.

Like him, farmers acting president, said the project, which covers 1,500 ha in Tarlac City, has been cleared by the Tarlac City Sangguniang Panlungsod.

In the villages of Balibog (Panapan), Maliuli and Piacang, over 1,500 ha are tilled by members of the workers' group Farm Leaders.

The group's chair, Renato Lalic, and Balibog, Jose Malecela, reported earning P80,000 from this grower for four months in at least three ha in October. It took them 200 days of work in Hacienda Luisita to earn P220,000.

"This is a temporary gain. This made us realize that if we cultivate the land and own it, we can gain more from it for many years," Lalic said.

Leonila Malbot, 67, wants to realize a life as a fully paid worker like mother Agueda and aunt Magdalena and Luisa worked for the hacienda. Until the strike, she and her daughter Nilda were farmhands as well.

Leave us alone

But another worker, Marilou Gapasin, wants leftists out of the conflict. "They should leave us and the HLI alone in resolving our problems," Gapasin said. She worked in a factory before and of workers till that got fired.

"I don't have money to (cannot develop the land. I like to continue working with the Cojuangcos because they are supportive of us," she said, referring to medical and educational loans.

More than 90 percent of 10,000 farm workers voted for the SDO in a new referendum in August as workers pursued demands for the resolution of the six-year standoff, according to HLI.

"They said we should go to Los Baños (site Logros Bermosa we will receive our dividends. We were not told we would vote for SDO or land," said farmer Esteban Tanada, a resident of La Paz town who

Prince William seals engagement with Diana's ring

From page A1

way of making sure that my mother didn't miss out on today and the excitement and the fact that we're going to spread the rest of our lives on perfect."

Blushing in the glare of flashbulbs, Kate told a press conference at St. James's Palace that the second-in-line to the throne had proposed during a holiday in Kenya three weeks ago. It was a "true romantic," she added.

Ring in backpack

William admitted on Tuesday he was so worried about losing his mother's engagement ring that he hid it in his backpack for three weeks before proposing to Kate.

"I literally would not let it go. Everywhere I went I was keeping hold of it because I knew if this thing disappeared I'd be in a lot of trouble," he said.

Kate, 28, said "I just hope I look alive it" after finally slipping the ring on her finger.

Unlike her royal fiancé, whose every move since birth has been observed, touched by the tabloids, life in the media spotlight has proved a new and unnerving experience for Kate, born in to a comparatively ordinary middle-class family from Buckinghamshire.

But with the help of powerful friends in the royal family she has fought back, sometimes successfully, to maintain a modicum of personal privacy, according to the Sunday Times.

The BBC reported that Kate's parents were running a mail-order business selling toys and games for children's parties from a converted barn close to their home. Her father was a pilot with British Airways or become a flight dispatcher while his mother was an air stewardess.

Kate's parents Michael and Carole said the family thought William was "wonderful" and "we are extremely fond of him."

'Popular and talented'

The eldest of three children, she was educated at the exclusive Marlborough College before studying art history at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Her former Marlborough classmate Charlie Leslie said: "Kate is an absolutely phenomenal girl—really popular, talented, creative and sporty.

"She was captain of the school hockey team and played in the first pair at tennis."

A college mate said: "I don't think you'd find anyone in Marlborough with a bad word to say about her."

"She excelled in all her subjects and was an A-grade pupil across the board," he added.

Her sister, Pippa, 25, is a pretty glamour who was voted No. 1 in Tatler magazine's 2008 poll of "1000 random kids in town."

Her brother, James, 23, has launched a baking company.

Shared accommodation

Kate met Prince William at St. Andrews, in '06, where they shared accommodation for two years. They moved out to join friends but quickly became boyfriend and girlfriend.

She is credited with persuading him not to leave when he had a "terrible" at the end of his first year, the BBC said.

The prince attended a charity fashion show in which Kate modelled in her underwear in March 2005.

Balmoral estate

Their relationship apparently flourished during weekends alone on the Queen's Balmoral estate. For a while, at least, William and Kate were guaranteed some privacy, following an agreement worked out between the palace and press while he was a student.

But the media silence did not last, and Kate was first brought to the public's attention after several tabloids pictured her beside William and Charles at the Swan ski resort of Klosters in 2005.

The photographs appeared despite efforts by aides to keep the holiday private, the BBC said.

Media interest

Newspaper interest grew when Kate graduated and pictured in her gown.

In October 2009, after the publication of a photo showing Kate looking out of a window on a London bar, her lawyers wrote to newspaper and magazine editors asking them to respect her privacy, the BBC said.

They claimed photogra phers had followed her almost every day and night since she left university.

Speculation of an engagement was sparked in February when Kate—who wore diamond earrings to stop using paparazzi shots of her.

Official complaint

In March, Kate's lawyers made an official complaint to the Press Complaints Commission over a photo published in the Daily Mirror.

It showed Kate climbing a takeaway coffee cup and car keys in its hands to work. The Mirror issued a public apology and paid her mother Agneda and aunt Magdalena and Luisa worked for the hacienda. Until the strike, she and her daughter Nilda were farmhands as well.

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Kate's dress

Kate's mother had chosen gems at William's passing-out parade and had raised the question of "parties" in front of the Queen.

There were also reports some of William's friends would whisper "Goon to marry!" when Kate entered the room, in reference to her Chancellor's past career as an air hostess.

Reports of a reconciliation were denied in June 2007, with the couple insisting they were "just good friends" after being spotted together at the Concert For Diana in Wembley.

They were then seen in public on a number of occasions.

Kate even attended two royal weddings without William in 2008. Reports from AFP, BBC and AP

Noy: Massacre trial should be aired live

From page A1

ma told reporters that she was in favor of live coverage of the trial "because I really adhere to transparency."

But De Lima said certain factors should first be considered. She said, for example, the coverage of the trial might violate the court's rule prohibiting witnesses from hearing the testimony of their fellow witnesses.

"There should be careful consideration of that rule because the people might see and hear the testimony of their fellow witnesses," she said.

According to De Lima, live coverage of the trial may also lead to the grandstanding of members of the defense and prosecution panels.

"We should study them a little more, but the ultimate judge here is the Supreme Court or some 'middle ground,'" she said.

Educational

The President said live coverage of the trial would be "educational for the people."

"I think it would be a helpful direction in the sense that if we don't learn lessons from past mistakes), then we are condemned to repeat the same," he said in an interview with reporters at the Palace press room.

Mr. Aquino said that such live coverage, the people would "find out what transpired, where the possibility came from to produce such an ensuing and what steps should be done to prevent [such a thing] from happening again."

The President will convey his appeal to the Supreme Court in a formal letter to Chief Justice Renato Corona, according to his spokesperson, Edwin Lacierda.

Officials had earlier said that Malacañang was supportive of calls for the live coverage of the trial of the 197 accused, including members of the powerful Ampatuan clan who were said to have ordered the brutal killings on Nov. 23, 2009.

But the officials acknowledged that it was a decision for the high court to make.

In the public eye

"The threats to allow ending the Supreme Court to allow the live coverage in order to give the public a front seat view of how the worst incidence of political violence in Philippine history happened.

"That's the glare of the public eye, both prosecutors and defense attorneys will have to think twice before undertaking legal maneuvers to delay the case," Sen. Francis Pangilinan told the lawyers.

Pangilinan has filed Resolution No. 186 to express the Senate's stand that the case, which has been dubbed the "trial of the century" should be seen on TV and heard on radio.

He said it was the high court's then would promulgate the rules governing the live coverage, such as whether all media outlets, or only a pool of reporters, would be allowed into the courtroom.

Biggest fear

"It would be in the best interest of our judiciary to have transparency in the judicial process, especially in such an unprecedented case of brutality that reached the attention of the international media. The Constitution recognizes the right of the people to public information on matters of public concern," Pangilinan said.

With a year going by since the massacre, "with very little progress in the case, the senator expressed concern that the pace of the trial would slow down even further if it was kept behind closed doors.

He said his biggest fear was that the "ends justify the end justice" would be trivialized with the passing of the years.

"While he accused is entitled to due process, the victims, their families, and more importantly, the public, also have the right to be informed of the actual, transparent and impartial court proceedings," he said.

2 sittings weekly

Judge Reyes has ordered that hearings be held on Wednesday and Thursday next month in one if the prosecution and defense panels, as well as the court staff, could handle the increased pace.

"We will have two sittings [every week] for December," Reyes said, adding that the hearings would be held until Dec. 16 to allow the court staff to prepare for their Christmas break.

She said hearings would resume early in January.

Defense lawyer Sigfrid Noche said that the hearings be held even on Christmas Eve.

"Can we go on vacation?" Reyes said.

Prosecutors suggested that holding hearings twice a week should become the norm. But Noche said that the judge is assuming her in the case would do so only until December.

Noche said the defense and prosecution panels could write the Supreme Court to seek an extension.

Reyes said she would consult with the high court's administrator.

The prosecution was to have presented two witnesses yesterday—Dr. Dean Cayetano Calderon of the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory and Surigao Councilor Rodolfo Ilagan—for the consolidated bail petitions of the accused.

But Ilio did not push through with from subpoenaing opposition to hold bail hearings without the preliminary investigation or pretrial conference.

Judge Reyes set the pretrial conference for Nov. 22, or the eve of the first anniversary of the massacre. The trial will resume on Nov. 24.

Autopsy results

Private prosecutor Nena Santos said Cabrera was to have testified on the results of the autopsies conducted on the victims.

"He would have testified on the gunshot wounds each victim had. There were nine, eight, or 12 shots per person," Santos said.

On the other hand, Santos said the prosecution was no longer taking to Judge Michael Joy Hartzung as a state witness because he was not aware of the purported conspiracy behind the massacre.

"He was not part of the conspiracy. He does not know of the plan, so he is not witness to our material murder as accused [Andal] desperados. It [is convenient] the does not qualify as a state witness," she said.

Santos said the prosecution had "many" witnesses, including Engr. Bert Dionisio and PO3 Rainier Ilios, both of whom had already testified in court.

"We have many witnesses but we're not presenting them all because not all of the accused have been arraigned," she said.

'Reduced friction'

The prosecution and defense held a second case management conference to ensure the smooth flow of the trial.

Reyes ordered the lawyers from both sides for the "reduced friction" during the hearing last week.

"All of us simply have a purpose [and] that is to accelerate the proceedings," he said. "We have no obligation not to have the victims and the accused but also for the judiciary and the legal profession."

Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Richard Anthony Fadullon said the prosecution appreciated the "cooperation" of the verbal readers in court.

But Fadullon asked that the defense accord government witnesses "respect" during cross-examination.

He also said both the verbal readers and the lawyers use the language used in the pleadings should be toned down. Reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Marlon Ramos, Gil C. Cabacungan, Jr. and Philip C. Tubeo

US: Abus get funding from OFWs

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE US DEPARTMENT of State has raised the possibility that the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), which is behind kidnappings and beheadings in Mindanao, is getting funding from Filipino workers abroad, triggering indignant protests from labor groups.

The ASG is the latest Philippine terrorist group to be blacklisted by the US government. Washington also may review hundreds of other groups and individuals—believed to have links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network—for possible inclusion in the US terrorist watchlist.

The US Embassy in Manila announced the designation of the ASG and the Rajah Solaiman Movement (RSM) as terrorist organizations on Nov. 4.

The RSM is a group of converts to Islam led by Filipinos.

The US Embassy said the designation of the ASG and the RSM as terrorist organizations "will help to prevent the movement of funds to terrorist groups, and will expose and isolate their members."

The US Embassy said the ASG "has received funding and training from the Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist organization in Indonesia and from al-Qaeda

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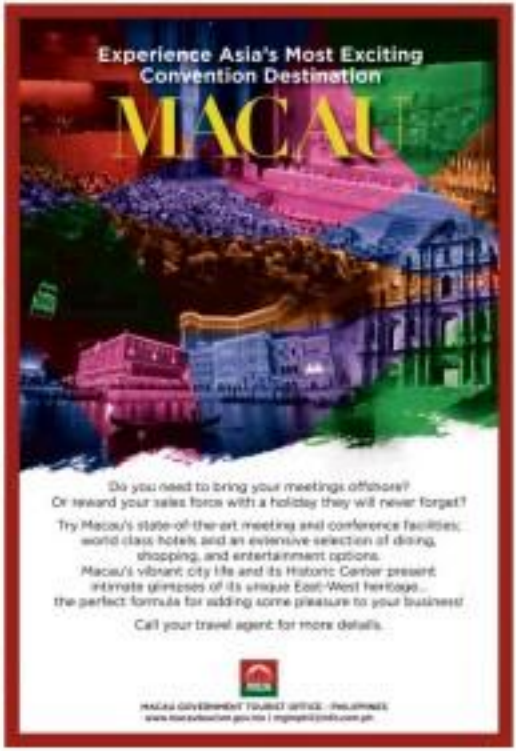
OMBUDSMAN'S REPLY

Raps vs Lapids moving, Panlilio told



THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman is on the way to resolving the slander complaint of former Pampanga governor Ed Panlilio against Sen. Lito Lapid, the latter's son Mark, and three others for allegedly failing to remit millions of pesos in quarry fees to the provincial government.

Assistant Ombudsman Jose de Jesus said the case has been "substantially" through the required process.

He said the Lapids and their co-accused — former provincial administrator Fidel Aroma and former provincial treasurers Jovito Salcedo and Virgie Yalong — have already filed their counter-affidavits.

Although Panlilio has not filed a reply to the counter-affidavits, he is not required to do so, hence, the case has been submitted for resolution, De Jesus said.

"The resolution is being fast-tracked and now forthcoming," he said.

Panlilio earlier complained that he is now against the Lapids, as well as another one he had filed against alleged jueteng lord Bing Pineda, had intensify any progress.

Panlilio said the Lapids and the other respondents in June 2006 over what he said was more than P500 million worth of missing quarry royalties.

He said only P121 million in quarrying fees were collected from 2002 to 2007, and that P989 million should have been remitted to the provincial government.

He said he based his figures on technical, factual verification, ecological fees in the municipalities of Floridablanca, Mabalacat and Porac.

The senator was governor of Pampanga from 1995 to 2001, which his opponents say prompted from 2001 to 2007.

Lella B. Salcedo

Correction

IN THE NEW TYPHOON, An Actress the Nation story on Page 40—"Gov. Jindal special assistant pharmacy"—mistakenly identified Mayor Jose Vitas" Tenjo of Bauan, Batangas, as the chief of staff of former La Paz City Mayor Jovan Green. Green' chief of staff is Danny Tabias.

The same story also inadvertently attributed to Tenjo the quote "We have met the requirements, including the accreditation of acceptance which was signed by the recipients of the P44-million project under former administration." The quote should have been attributed to Green.

Inquirer Southern Luzon apologizes for any inconvenience the error may have caused.

Reyes: I'm entitled to equal protection of law

FORMER ENERGY Secretary Angelo T. Reyes said he was exhausting all legal remedies and avenues to uphold the basic principle of his and overdue application of the law in his bid to sit in the House of Representatives as 1-UNA party-list representative.

He issued the press statement in reaction to the militant transport group Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahan ng Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (Piston), which had entrusted Reyes's cause to file a petition before the Supreme Court for certiorari and mandamus to overturning order to "hurry but delaying tactics."

Reyes said he is entitled to equal protection of the law as everyone else, he added: "I respect the right of the militant groups to raise questions about the issues. But they should also respect my right to exhaust all legal remedies so that I can be of further service to the people, this time in the halls of Congress."

The Commission on Elections earlier has ruled, by a vote of 4-3, that Reyes was not qualified to represent a marginalized sector. This prompted Reyes to seek relief from the Supreme Court.

Reyes reiterated that during his entire term as government, he had always sought to protect the interests and welfare of the transport sector.

Reyes said that during his term as defense secretary he took a strong stand against "hazing" (initiation) rites who preyed on public utility drivers for imagined traffic offenses.

"As Environment Secretary I urged the transport sector to shift to LPG-fed engines so that the world be spared from high oil prices and help protect the environment by reducing air pollution," he said.

"I take strong exception to the baseless claim of Piston that I was the spokesman of the oil companies during my term as energy secretary. This is a blatant lie," Reyes said.

He urged the militant transport groups to sit down with the government to find consensus on issues confronting the public transport sector.

"Instead of taking to the streets to protest, they should instead draft sober proposals to solve the problems of the mass transport sector," Reyes said.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Why quantify?

EDITORIAL

A PRESIDENTIAL journey abroad is one a trip to the grocery—or the jeepney. Why, then, do we expect the President of the Philippines to (as we have learned to say) bring home the bacon? Even President Aquino himself seems to be afflicted with "bacon-itis." When he returned from Japan earlier this week, he said upon arrival that he had brought home $2.85 billion in guaranteed investments and, "kung papayag tayo [if we approve it]," $3.6 billion in additional investments.

Well and good, if the numbers hold up—but surely that was not the main purpose of his Japanese visit? Mine, if not all, of these investments would still have been made, even if President Aquino had decided not to attend the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit that was Tokyo's turn to host. Otherwise—and this is simply Business 101—they would not have been good investments.

The Japanese, especially, are famous for being masters of due diligence; it takes years of preparation and planning before a Japanese firm greenlights a new investment in an emerging economy. Mine, if not all, of the investments that President Aquino had "brought home" must have been cured—to extend the bacon imagery—even before the last elections.

To be sure, announcing investment totals has been a foreign policy tradition and almost a diplomatic protocol since the earliest days of the Republic. The predecessors of both Presidents Aquino were especially adept practitioners (Ferdinand Marcos has the edge over Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in this pathetic contest, if only because loans from multilateral financial institutions like the World Bank were announced as though they were prizes for robust economic health, instead of the economic blood transfusions they really were).

But, to phrase the argument in another way, if there had been no investment agreements to be ceremonially signed in Japan, would President Aquino have skipped the APEC summit? The political and perhaps even the economic costs of not attending the annual conference for such a reason would have been both tremendous and severe; it would have raised doubts or reinforced existing skepticism abroad about President Aquino's capacity for the hard, dragging work of governance. And it would have resurrected once again those accusations (entertained by some of our closest allies) that, deep down, the Philippine government has a mendicant mentality.

Part of course skipping the APEC summit was out an option; President Aquino knows there is more to international relations than commerce. He has not yet said anything that will make us think that his mindset when it comes to travelling is exclusively peso-and-centavos. In fact, as in the controversy over the adverse travel advisories, he has shown the ability to defend Philippine sovereignty using the language of commerce (e.g., the damage to our tourism prospects) that his fellow leaders understand.

It is clear, however, that he has subscribed to the view that for a presidential trip to be considered successful, some amount of investments, some economic benefit, must be claimed. This, we suggest, is an erroneous and ultimately counter-productive view.

We recognize that, in announcing the actual sum of each of President Aquino's three foreign trips this year, Malacañang has taken a step in the right direction. It is important to know just how much is spent (and, evidently, who is doing the spending); we do not want a repeat of the freewheeling foreign travels of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whose billion-peso price tag we discovered only belatedly.

But the idea that these published sums must be offset against a potential gain in investments is not good governance. Any president is bound by treaty or tradition to attend at least two leaders' summits (Asean and APEC) a year, and regularly receives invitations for usually reciprocal visits from fellow heads of government. Should the Philippines refuse to honor these commitments or invitations if there is no bacon to bring home?

General, the people—President Aquino's boss—have grown to expect these number-heavy arrival statements. President Aquino is in a unique position to break this sorry tradition. That way lies political maturity.

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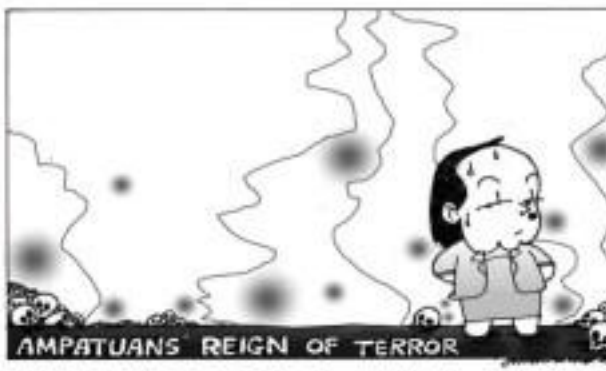

The connectivity society

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THERE'S a theory in the study of social relationships that became quite popular in the 1960s. It was called "dramaturgical sociology." Its author, Erving Goffman, adopted the Shakespearean insight that "all the world's a stage," and worked out a cool set of concepts that view human actions as responses in the elaborate art of impression management. We want other people, he said, to see us according to how we wish to portray ourselves. Instead of leaving it entirely to chance, this is something we consciously do most of the time. Human interaction, he argued, has an element of theater in it.

Goffman would have found the new universe of instant digital connectivity in which many of us today are immersed fascinating. Because of the radical changes in communication technologies, our lives have become more theatrical than ever; in what he called the "front stage." In other words, we are constantly performing. Between performances, we find that there's less and less time to retreat to the "back stage," to take a breath and be ourselves.

Our cellphones become public. The most intimate of our relationships, in which we used to be able to take refuge, can be viewed by people we hardly know but who are part of an ever-expanding social network. We are trapped in roles from which increasingly we cannot take a rest. We can no longer talk in whispers, or tell a joke that will not potentially be a scandal. It has become difficult to indulge in private moments that we're sure will not be photographed, or recorded, and posted on YouTube or somebody's Friendster.

Modern communication instantly connects us to an amazing number of people everywhere, all at the same time. This has multiplied exponentially the power to do good and to spread the good news. But it has also empowered terrorists. It has made bullying not just more widespread but more damaging. By its anonymous, it has also made it virulent. By providing easy access to the various media of public discourse, mass connectivity has democratized opinion-making no doubt, but it has not made it an easy to come to any agreement on what is to be regarded as true. Indeed, it has also become the most effective tool for repressing and spreading a lie. We may keep a tally of the number of people who "like" a particular opinion, blog, tweet, or post. But that only tells us what's popular at any given moment, not necessarily what's true.

This is not to ignore a group forums that are focused on specific issues and that foster rational argumentation of a high quality. But these are the exceptions rather than the rule. Most discussions do not initiate at the level of ideas; they invariably degenerate to name calling. The e-mail can still mimic the traditional letter, but when there's so much incoming mail to respond to, e-mails inescapably become simpler and shorter. In time they will look more like text messages, says Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg—"senseless, informal, immediate, personal, simple, animated and short." This form of communication will be even more inhospitable to prudent discussion that is sure to a hurry to make a point.

All this may sound like worrisome griping against technology. This is not a brief against technology. It is rather an observation of how technology can easily overwhelm our capacity to manage it properly at the personal and the societal level. The new technology has made everyday communication easy, but it has also raised human relationships to a different level of complexity for which our current conventional rule-habits and ethical instincts may not be adequate.

This is not just true for communications. Just in time for all new tools that some time use in the world with such pervasiveness and intensity as to create a disturbing "cultural lag." "Right now," says the Italian philosopher Gianni Vattimo, "we have the problem of technology not universally, which has the capacity to spread well-being around, but it's the value 'bottom that have made it possible in the West..." One does not need to be Eurocentric to appreciate what Vattimo is saying here. Women voted, after all, halted to prevent the invention and the actual use of the nucleus bomb. The point is this with their sheer accessibility and global spread, the new communications technologies have the power to completely outrun and destroy the fabric of existing societal systems.

Day the moment, we tend to see mainly the news and benign appearances they offer in old institutions. We are amused to learn that the Queen of England has opened a Facebook account, and that Pope Benedict XVI has urged the clergy to play an active role in evangelizing the new "digital continent" created by social media. We are not surprised that the American recently announced the launching of a new home page "that will serve as a point of connection between several news production centers of the Holy See." In many ways, they are following a road that was blazed by business and politics.

But how the new social media are rewarding social valorizing at the everyday level remains a largely unexplored field. The rise of virtual identities has greatly complicated the game of impression management. Goffman's theory highlighted a world of face-to-face interaction shape how which human beings could appear and withdraw at will, and within which the individual could hope to nurture a private self different from the one that others assign to him. That world is gone; the connectivity society in which we now live is one in which we generate our humanity in such a society is our biggest challenge.

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Fires of peace

THERE'S THE RUB

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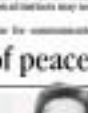

"THE PHILIPPINES, to say justo proud Filipinos here and all over the world: to congratulating Manny Pacquiao for this extraordinary feat of winning an eighth world title. As soon as he is back, we will recommend that he sit in this press panel to help unite this country." So says Ateny Apolonio, Col. Antonio Pollado Jr.

That is not inspired, that is miserable.

Pacquiao's capacity to unite the country will time he fights it of course pulsed. It works about a country from quite another perspective, that of Filipinos living in the United States. Suddenly people forget their battle and rancor, suddenly everyone feels proud to be a Filipino, suddenly everyone wants to wave the flag again, or even for the first time in their lives. What's on also be pretty scary. The battle begins at the thought of how attuned to democracy it will be for us if Pacquiao ever loses.

Pacquiao's capacity to still the pain each time he fights is just as patent. Suddenly ordinary and tired, Olympian enthusiasm, lay down their arms, if only for a moment, to watch their countrymen have fulfill their dreams. That is more needed than any issue, factual or informed, that the warring parties can make with one another. Any solution of it, one party taking the other by surprise, constitutes betrayal of every responsible canon enjoined of God, betrayal of reason, betrayal of everything sacred. I wasn't at all surprised to read that Muslim skirmishes fell drastically last Sunday in many parts of the Philippines.

Indeed, Pacquiao's capacity to fight crime every time he fights (not to pretend it's not just patent, it's instrumental. I know only three things that have brought the crime rate in the country to zero. One was the declaration of martial law in 1972. Overnight, crime disappeared along with democracy. Unfortunately, crime disappeared for only a few days while democracy disappeared for 14 years. Two was Edsa II 1998. Overnight crime disappeared with the reappearance of democracy. Unfortunately crime disappeared for only a few days and tyranny returned 20 years later.

There's nothing you can do about Pacquiao being a conglomerate now—I've always thought that was a bad idea...he'll just have to do as best he can. But there's much you can do about the other stuff. People should really not be putting these things in his head, or constripting him into them.

There is one thing we can do to take advantage of Pacquiao's capacity to unite the country: to make Filipinos proud of their country to make countries fair down their arms for a while. That is by making him an ambassador of good will, or a peace ambassador. As an ambassador of goodwill or a peace ambassador he can tour the country, particularly its most ravaged or war-torn places, and pitch the message: peacebuilding that he represents a sport whose very manner is battle, or precisely because of it, that it is better to "just, jaw, that to war, war," or it is better to "just, play, than to kill, kill."

Alternatively, we can always lobby for him to be considered for the Nobel Peace Prize way Leo Salonga is an ambassador of goodwill, and help spread that message to the world as well. That was what Muhammad Ali, the greatest of them all for reasons that go past boxing, has been doing all these years.

There is one thing Manny Pacquiao is a vast source of inspiration to Filipinos. Now more than ever. He, along with people like Lea and Cecile Licad and the others who have taken the world by storm, embodies the best that the Filipino can be. Indeed he more than they: he embodies the best that the ordinary Filipino can be, the tired, the poor, the huddled masses yearning to simply breathe, never mind breathe free. He has most captured their imagination, he has most fulfilled their fantasy, he has most drawn that the Filipino is not naturally domesticables and abject, down to nationally to his genes that programs him to be so, he can break out of his history and decide the world.

Leave the politics to others. Let Pacquiao set his countrymen's dreams on fire.

Why Manny matters much in the imagining

A WEEK after my wife (sorry) and I came back to our country after four and a half exciting years in Greece representing our country, I was fortunate to have a chance to commune in a deep way and in the most unique circumstances with my fellow pinoys last Saturday. This was at the fully packed Bulwa Gang restaurant at Greenbelt. There I cheered loudly with my fellow Filipinos for Manny Pacquiao as he made boxing history.

I'm not being sarcastic or melodramatic. Because that night, for those hours, in the common mission—very rare for us, unfortunately—that strengthened our republic, in his insightful 1983 book "Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism," the respected Cornell University political scientist and historian, Benedict Anderson propounded his grand boxing theory that the nation—a republic if it is a democratic one—the most important community modern man says he belongs to, and often claims he will die for, is an "imagined political community." It is different from "real communities" such as the family, the clan, the tribe, or even the fraternities to which it is just natural to have an allegiance to, since we get to be acquainted with each and every member of the group. In contrast, the nation is only an imagined community of relatives or friends we have.

In nations though, even in the smallest ones, the members, as Anderson put it, "will never know most of their fellow-members, meet them, or even hear of them, yet in the minds of each lives the image of their communion."

A Filipino will never ever meet each of his kababayan. But in his mind, when he recognizes and places symbols, say, in a strange foreign land and calls them Filipino, he "knows" them from his childhood; he was taught to imagine a community called the Philippines. Jose Rizal's greatness...in contrast to the artists-oriented Andres Bonifacio—is that he was the first Filipino to present the imagining of the Philippines not in the political way but in two dramatic novels which used technologies extant any even presaged modern film.

To imagine a community is not easy, even if the necessary but usually toxic conditions exist, such as a shared territory, language, history and memorial patterns features. There has to be limited climate and lands to pull out, as it were, the indigenous, communitarianisms, and merge it with the common ash—ash rituals or the singing of the national anthem, national day celebrations, and the commemoration of the community's important events, or such tools as the newspaper, the arts, and even cartoons.

One of the most important tools for the imagining is the existence and commemoration of its heroes, especially its martyrs. This is because they are the perfect embodiments of the nation, having sacrificed their lives, not for rewards in an afterlife but for the survival of their imagined community.

But heroes need not be martyrs who die fighting for the survival of their nation. They could be members of the community who excel in their fields, especially if they have done this against all odds (think Charice Pempengco, Lea Salonga, Jaclyn Jose). For what better way to convince an individual to be a dedicated member of the community if not to demonstrate that by being a member, he could share somehow in the qualities of the hero?

Perhaps, this struggling against gravity to be the greatest boxer of our times, fits perfectly the role of a hero helping us imagine our nation.

Pacquiao's power to strengthen the imagining of our community owes much though to modern media technology, not to print media made the first imagining of nations possible. Real time coverage of the fight allowed us, as it were, to be in Pacquiao's consciousness itself. That wasn't the case for Flash Gordon or Nancy Aguinas. The realm in which Pacquiao proved his excellence—boxing—is also the most suitable for imagining nations as it simulates, as in the case of the Olympics or even Asian Games, the ancient way he competed, even among imagined communities—wars. It's one more thing to the legend of the Filipino and his reliance of his bahagis or Chance Pampengco.)

Moreover, with its view that society is divided in to irreconcilable exploitative and exploited classes, it could not explain the emergence and strength of nationalism starting in the 19th century, the only nations ever survive if it's worth the class struggles?

Anderson's theory of imagined communities filled this lacuna in Marxist theory. As he put it, "regardless of the actual inequality and exploitation that may prevail in each, the nation is always conceived as a deep, horizontal comradeship. Ultimately it is this fraternity that makes it possible, over the past two centuries, for so many millions of people, not wanton to kill, as willingly to die for such limited imaginings."

Then, as Bobbie Camp has funding the capitalist society, the filmmakers, the writers and scientists, rich businessmen, diplomats, artists and so on, all contribute to the imagining of our community. For 400 years, the Spanish colonizers, represented mainly by friars, made us believe—until today for many Filipinos—that our community, novel to the clan, was the Kingdom of God. And then for at least the next two decades, again even now for many Filipinos, the imagined community is either Chicago or Los Angeles.

We are starved of rituals and heroes to help us imagine our nation. That is why Manny matters much.

E-mail: rigdao.inquirer@gmail.com

Kicked out of home

SOME SAY, "It's just a radio station, why all the fuss?"

MUSIC, for our generation of rock listeners, was a catechist's zone. At a certain time in our lives, it was a refuge. It was an institution—like "Bachelor" and Fanny Ramilo...an vehicle we never resisted. It can never be replaced.

So it came as a shock when we found out that it was going off air. When the announcement was made, open lines were asked: "Why?" "Are they selling out?" "Isn't it making enough?" "Where are we supposed to tune in now?" We vented our frustrations. Many of us had been left by a long-time partner. A lover who had an inkling of what was coming but was in denial of the "signs."

If NU was the "Home of New Rock," where do we go now? Did we just get kicked out of home?

I was among those who went to the "vigil" last Nov. 7. While most of us would have preferred to stay home and get a good night's sleep in preparation for the grueling work day, I decided to go to the station. There went a gig, not even a program, but Emerald Avenue in Ortigas was so full of people that it looked like there was a street party. When I got off the cab, the driver asked what was going on.

"Magsasara na po yung radio station," I told him.

"Ha, bakit naman?" he asked.

I could only shrug as I gave him my fare. Even he (who was hired to be a taxi driver) was more surprised, and I didn't know what the answer was either.

Okay, maybe I know why. I was a regular listener of NU, which became popular for playing unsigned bands even before "indie" became hip in the 1990s until early 2000. That was when I was a newly fat, pimply Catholic-school kid with big hair who wore thick eyeglasses (those descriptions managed to accompany me to adulthood, like wax or accident, but in a more favorable manner and not all in one package, thankfully). I was working as hard on being cool and thought that one way to have even just an dash of "cool" was to know rock music.

While my classmates were rabid followers of the Spice Girls, Backstreet Boys, I asked my mom to buy me "Nine" and "Cornerpillow" cassette tapes. I listened to NU which featured music that were called "weird at medyo out" played by long-haired, head-banging artists in black shirts described as "mga maiitsurang mukhadong di nagligo."

I couldn't defend rock and roll then as her. For some reason, she was right, but I knew that rock music was the only thing I had in common with my grade-school buddies and it was the only thing, aside from my report cards, that boosted my confidence which was at rock bottom. I knew more than this was very before "emo" was even coined.)

I educated myself about rock music through MUSIC. I listened during study time, before I went to sleep, and even as I was taking. I tuned in to the Independence Day sessions for live performances since I was too young to see bands in a real gig. I looked forward to the New Year countdown and, even as fireworks were exploding outside my house, I was glued to the radio to hear my favorite players. The server was preoccupied or distracted as I listen to the radio, save for some remote Central Rhodorols.

We no longer needed radio to know the latest in music, but that didn't mean we were not loyal listeners. MUSIC was always our station.

In that Sunday night on Emerald Avenue, we couldn't help but be a little nostalgic, emotional...dingy. We were breaking up with each other.

While most of us were guilty of not giving NU as much of our time as before, we just had to be there to show some love, together with the musicians NU had launched who were going to the station on its final week.

Outside the station, people sang along, teary-eyed, as NU jocks bid farewell and played their last songs. It was festive and the energy was high. There were mixtures of sadness, tears for a radio station that was dying, hope for some maybe, just maybe, something could be done about it, and warmth as seeing so many people converge outside a station, scolled (by Facebook and Twitter) in paying our last respects.

Those who formed the crowd were in the same age bracket: late 20s to early 40s. Young couples even brought their kids to light up candles on the station gate inside a plastic cup (a very creative substitute for candles in light NU candles). White-and-red birthday cake candles that spelled "NU" flickered. A speaker was set up outside the studio so that people could hear what was happening.

My friends and I got inside the station at around 10 p.m. It was so emptied and hot, but we stayed because we had to mourn. We needed closure.

It was a night to remember. In MUSIC, the station that cracked our random. And our left with a heavy heart, as if we had just gone to a wake. But as DJ Francis Brew said: "There was a time this was literally my home... My heart... my it there. This place is really my home and in life sometimes you have to leave home, and sometimes home says maybe you should go on more... There was anger and disappointment, but at the end of the day it's good to... or suppose you've given a part of yourself to a radio station for many years. This is the only station that rocks the nation."

At midnight of Nov. 7, the music rock station MUSIC signed off after playing the Eraserhead's "Ending Is Inside" and the National Anthem. I am glad to have covered two Rock Awards for this paper—both as newsman reporter when I ended the night saying, "I could close rock station for today."

Thankful as we are for 23 years of music, we do find have to deal with some separation anxiety.

And me, I had to give up my groupie fantasies.

Irene Andrea C. Perez, 28, works as an editorial production assistant at the Philippine Daily Inquirer

YOUNG BLOOD

Irene Andrea C. Perez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something and teens.

Books, not bombs

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

I GREET this pupil's Muslim readers a happy Eid'l Adha, the Muslim feast of sacrifice celebrated two days ago. The feast commemorates Abraham's act of having of his and Hagar's only son Ismael in obedience and as a sacrifice to God. This story is in the Koran of the Muslims, the Bible of the Christians and the Torah of the Jews. Abraham (Ibrahim) is considered a great prophet and humanitarian by those three great religions that have yet to live in total peace with one another.

I wonder why was Christmas/Catholics have no feast in Abraham's honor. Just now I am reminded of the action song "Father Abraham had seven children, seven children had father Abraham." But didn't he have eight? Abraham came from the land of Ur located in what is now Iraq.

I take that to mean Abraham came from a good environ—the Euphrates River (Eufe) Tigris River valley of the Fertile Crescent inspired Socrates and his philosophies. I wrote about this loving Christian-Muslim feast some years ago when they were just starting their books-for-a-cause advocacy. The name E-Book Says Group is a play on words that suggests yes to reading books, not terror as wanted by the dreaded Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

Starting successfully is one thing, continuing and expanding is another. Here's the update:

Completed in April 2009, the first Peace Library is now in full swing. It was constructed with the help of generous individuals and groups. As usual's family donated the land. The library is strategically located in Barangay Mandalahan in Gamboanguita, one of the municipalities in the Negros Oriental province and a kilometer away from Sacol Island, the hiding place of the ASG, which is notorious for its kidnap for ransom activities. The barangay, by the way, is a jump-off point.

According to Amirol, some 100 to 200 post-graduate, high school students and teachers from surrounding schools come to the library every day. Amirol's mom, Aida, a retired assistant principal, runs the library with the help of volunteers and paid staff.

The library continues to receive books from donors. Students could read in the library or borrow books to take home. Sometimes it takes time for the books to be returned (or not at all) because other family members, the borrowers would say, read them too. Amirol proudly says that among the library's more than 5,000 books, none have been burned (for their reading). Those who have used the library more than 60 times get prizes.

The library has renewed sight computers, most by second hand, that the students could use for research (using encyclopedias in CDs that have short supply). There is an Internet connection. This is where Amirol says the library could get more help. Reading competition is the second floor where the computers would be placed. And just as important: comfort rooms for the students. "The boys go to the bamboo grove to relieve themselves," Amirol says. "The girls just have to wait till they get home."

And so what's next? Converting Child Warriors to Cyber Warriors (CHILD WARRIORS) is how Amirol and sisters call their next project. Here is what Amirol said of his new come-on for students—computers and the Internet:

"Imagine those wonders of technology and knowledge being placed in the hands of thousands of poor children in Mindanao who cannot afford computers; children living in remote areas that remain without electricity; and children who do not have access to computers because they have been displaced by war and terrorism.

"It is not hard to imagine the great transformation effect the free use of computers and the Internet will have on very poor children living in areas that are known to be jump-off areas and hiding places of the Abu Sayyaf and other terrorist groups in Mindanao.

"Surely, the unending effect of Internet connection's enlightenment will help convince some of these hard-headed children that there is more to life than living through the barrel of a gun—as their elders do. Let us use the magic of the Internet to show potential child soldiers the mixed world they will turn should they pick up the guns and live the violent lifestyle of terror.

"It is for this reason that we are embarking on a new project to expose poor children in Mindanao to the worldwide web and open up a new world for them, a world they never thought existed but which most of us take for granted."

I told Amirol in part that there is such a thing as cyberaccosting and might not these computers and Internet connection become a gateway to something else? No, he said, computer users will be properly monitored, and games, violent or not, will not be allowed. And how can the Abu Sayyaf have Internet connection if Wi-Fi is not available in the area? That is still being figured out with ISPs (mainly they could take the form).

By the way, the E-Book Says reading program won the 2010 Community Hall search of Smart Communications Talk and Text Text Ball.

On Nov. 27 the CHILD'S will hold a fund-raising event at Bonifacio Global City (in West Bonifacio, Timberland Heights, Barangay Napal). San Mateo, Rizal (15 minutes from Sandiganbayan). Connect and donate books, computers, old clothes and such.

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A return to reason

WORLD VIEW

Bjorn Lomborg

COPENHAGEN—COMMON sense was an early loser in the scorching battle over the reality of man-made global warming. For nearly 20 years, one group of activists argued—in the face of overwhelming evidence—that global warming was a fabrication. Their opponents, meanwhile, exaggerated the phenomenon's likely impact—and, as a consequence, dangerously floated on frantic, ill-considered solutions that would cost trillions of dollars and do little or nothing to address the issue.

This scientific pie fight, characterized by invective rather than sensible tactics, and intellectual intransigence on both sides, not only left the public confused and scared, it undermined the efforts of the most important organizations working on advancing the science of climate change. Almost inevitably, it also seriously stymied fresh efforts to Copenhagen, governments failed to take any meaningful action on global warming.

Fortunately, there finally seems to be a growing number of influential scientists, economists and politicians who are responses a more sensible approach to the issue.

As I argued in my 2007 book "Cool It," the most rational response to global warming is to make affordable energy technologies so cheap that the whole world can afford them. In broad strokes, this requires a deliberate and significant boost to research and development spending, based on recent work by Isabel Galiana and Chris Green of McGill University. I am advocating expenditures totaling around 0.4 percent of global GDP—roughly $100 billion a year.

Of course, no fix to global warming will work overnight. So we need to focus more on adapting to the effects of global warming—for example, by ramping up the building of dikes in Bangladesh and the urban "heat island" effect. At the same time, we should explore the practicality of climate engineering, which we may need to rely more time in a research-intensive way from fossil fuels.

Acknowledging that man-made climate change is real, but arguing that carbon cuts are not the answer, amounts to making out a middle ground in the global warming debate—which means being attacked from both sides. For so-called "alarmists," pointing out what's wrong with drastic carbon cuts is a relentless instrument in denying the reality of climate change, while so-called "deniers" hardline enemies who accept the scientific evidence supporting this "mythical" problem.

Nevertheless, there are encouraging signs that the minority of sensible voices in this debate are beginning to get the attention they deserve. In early 2009, as part of a project by the Copenhagen Consensus Center to assess different responses to global warming, Green and Galiana performed a cost-benefit analysis of R&D spending on green technologies. Green, a long-time proponent of a technology-led response to global warming, demonstrated the effectiveness of a policy of government investment in R&D aimed at developing new low-carbon technologies, making current technologies cheaper and more effective, and encouraging private investment in these areas. Just as smart girls, so Green and Galiana bluntly noted, "No approach to climate stabilization will work without an energy technology revolution."

Another academic who has advocated a smarter response to global warming is Roger Pielke Jr. of the University of Colorado, the author of this year's must-read global-warming book—"The Climate Fix." Along with Green, Pielke was one of 14 noted academics who co-wrote Nobelist's "Hartwell Paper," commissioned by the London School of Economics and the University of Oxford. The paper lauds the case for developing alternatives to fossil fuels, including that technological development alone's several environmentalists, and recognizing the importance of adaptation to climate change.

In the United States, we witnessed an equally promising development in the Democratic Party's post-election defeat. Rahm Emanuel, the new White House chief of staff, and Steny Hoyer, the new House majority leader, both called for scrapping America's failed cap-and-trade legislation and instead pursuing cheap, Tiller "Part-Pakistan Power," the signal commonsensically and convincingly argues that the US government should invest roughly $25 billion per year (about 0.2 percent of America's GDP) in low-carbon technologies. Unfortunately, this sensible proposal was ignored by the administration, which has not made any serious attempt to leverage new technologies, making current technologies cheaper and more effective, and encouraging private investment in these areas. Just as smart girls, so Green and Galiana bluntly noted, "No approach to climate stabilization will work without an energy technology revolution."

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Bjorn Lomborg is the author of "The Skeptical Environmentalist" and "Cool It," subject of the film "Cool It," director of the Copenhagen Consensus Center, and adjunct professor at Copenhagen Business School.

Pasig River lesson: How PH can truly recover

LETTERS

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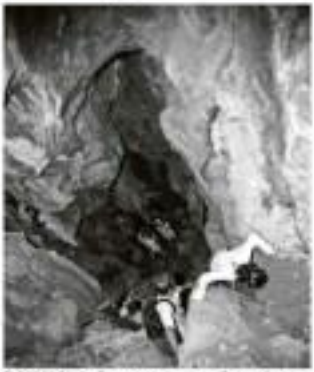
SPELUNKING IN PUERTO PRINCESA

Ugong Rock on top of village tourism

By Redempto O. Anda
Puerto Princesa City

IN THEIR CASE, the formula had not always worked. When a group of foreign tourists cautiously encouraged residents of the sleepy village of Tagabinet in Puerto Princesa City to build a stone deck atop a limestone rock overlooking a rustic scenery of paddy fields and karst, only a few tourists came.



THE UGONG Rock offers a rare treat and is classified as an "easy to moderate" rock-climbing obstacle.

The people had hoped to tap into the tourist traffic passing through the place en route to the famous and more established Underground River, now a world-class attraction and candidate to land on a global short list of natural wonders.

For some reasons, their expectations were not met. Tour operators stuck to hauling their guests back to the city after visiting the underground caves of the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park. The Ugong Rock Horseback as an extra come-on and spelunking thrill was ignored.

Quickly enough, the group assisted by a development agency to build and promote the plan was used up and no other support was forthcoming. Local interest began to wane, and the community reverted to its way of life—farming, fishing and roadside selling of cashew and young coconuts to tourists.

The concept of a tourist attraction run entirely as a set of socialized project to benefit the community, as opposed to how a private company would do it to amass profits, has made Puerto Princesa a veritable laboratory for community-based sustainable tourism (CBST) over the past decade.

When the European Union funded a major recovery project in the early part of the decade to conserve Palawan's stunning forest, the Underground River was seen as a priority site and the CBST as a strategy to promote conservation.

Alternative destinations

Several initiatives were launched to develop tourist sites, particularly around the Underground River, and alternatives, and easing the pressure of having too many people see the insides of a dark cave on a boat.

The core idea behind the CBST is based in two catch phrases—"community-based" and "sustainable"—plus environment-friendly. The successes and failures achieved by the EU initiative only showed that the CBST as a nonconditional mode of developing a tourism product was easier said than done.

"There were mixed results. Some projects took off with some kind of promise, but some never really existed even in the start-up years," recalled Rhoderic Climaco, a community organizer who was involved in the EU projects.

In Tagabinet, an attempt to develop the unique outcrop of karst and caves into a major tourist attraction was among the projects identified, but the initial result was not encouraging.

The kidnapping and murder in the plush Dos Palmas resort in the mid-'90s, which involved a terrorist group allied with the al-Qaida, brought tourism to Palawan to a halt and did not help the CBST thrust any.

By the time the city government, in partnership with the ABS-CBN Foundation, tried one last time to rekindle it, the interest of community members who had already invested time and effort was at its lowest.

One more try

"It was difficult when we came in, but we gave it a try and the community has gotten back on its feet," Socrates Ortega of the ABS-CBN Foundation said.

The overall tourism boom in Puerto Princesa, as seen in the burgeoning travel and tours sector and the rapidly increasing demand for travel and accommodation, has augured well for the city's role as a CBST hub.

The Tagabinet Community Association, which runs the Ugong Rock as a spelunking and sightseeing destination, has graduated into a full-fledged tourism enterprise, boasting itself as more the challenge of handling the increasing number of visitors.

The Ugong Rock itself offers a rare treat. One is challenged to conquer the rough and jagged inner precipices of its unknown looking knee outcrop in the middle of a paddy field, only to be rewarded by a breathtaking view of the St. Paul limestone mountain range.

It is classified "easy to moderate" as a rock-climbing obstacle, and the scientific and historical interpretation of the local guides makes it a complete package.

The locals christened the place Ugong, which literally means "hum," because of the humming sound from one particular cavity inside the cave once it is gently tapped. According to old timers, the Tagbanua natives called it "bungkat" after the wild dogs that once roamed the area.

Ortega points out that the more encouraging success so far reaped by Tagabinet is that it could become a major economic vehicle to address rural poverty.

Women power

The women spearhead the operations of Ugong Rock. They run the tours and manage items inside the kitchen, while most men, including their husbands, flock to the field to tend to the paddies.

"About 97 percent of the people involved in this project are women of the community" said Marivel Ortegada, 33, president of the Tagabinet Community Tourism Association Inc.

The women and the entire community are busy enhancing the site and will soon offer Dalawa's first zip line, a chance for visitors to experience going down the view deck strapped on a motorcable.

Ortega cites the project as a success story on the CBST, "a concept which in many places around the world is still in its infancy."

He noted that one of the several projects agreed upon by the ABS-CBN Foundation and the city government to develop community-based tourism—the Iwahig River firefly watching tour—won such a huge environmental success that it won the prestigious Pata (Pacific Asia Travel Association) Gold Award this year.

Community benefits

Tagabinet is no longer the sleepy remote village it once was. The association has entered into a deal in which the barangay council will get 10 percent of the project's net profit.

Goodies are received from the community and the local vintage industry makes and sells souvenirs and novelty items to tourists.

Rodolfo Bilda, a guide and one of the first men directly involved in the project, said his income augmented the meager earnings from his farm and he can now afford to support his children in school.

From its historical beginning as a fishing place and the main harbour for the Tagbanua tribes that had fought Moro pirates in the past, the Ugong Rock has emerged as perhaps the latest testament to a new form of tourism enterprise.

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Across the NATION

Kidnappers free gas station owner

COTABATO CITY—Kidnappers yesterday freed a Chinese-Filipino gas station owner who was seized in Datu Piang, Maguindanao, on Sunday in a spate of kidnappings that authorities appeared to be helpless in preventing, according to police.

Chief Supt. Benevenido Laang, police chief for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said 70-year-old Rodolfo Uba was freed in Barangay Sunny Heights II at 6 a.m.

Uba, owner of a Caltex gas station in Poblacion Dalusan, was seized Sunday afternoon. Four men pretended to gas up and three of them approached Uba. The suspects hit him with a hard gun in the head when he tried to resist being taken away. He was forced into a black sedan.

The suspects fled toward the village of Datu Unsay.

A pregnant woman was hurt during a brief encounter between the suspects and militiamen in Barangay Salidadum, also in Datu Piang.

Laang said the family was said to have paid P6 million to secure his: But it was the result of private negotiations between the family and the captors.

Laang said the government is sticking to its no-ransom policy.

He said two of the suspects have been identified and are being hunted.

The suspects earlier demanded P10 million in ransom in exchange for Uba's release.

Two suspects were killed in a separate encounter between soldiers and the kidnappers in Kabuntalan, Maguindanao, according to Brig. Gen. Ariel Bernardo, 6th Infantry Division chief.

Two other traders remain in the hands of kidnappers in Maguindanao after they were seized on Sunday in Sto Niño, South Cotabato.

Dave of them, Grace Hermoso, is spouse of the Sto Niño Treasury Cooperative. Hermoso's staffer, Juan Pantaleon, was killed when her husband fought back the kidnappers.

In Sultan, police said the kidnappers of public school teacher Cecilia Sosa have not yet sent word to her family.

Sosa was one of two families who were kidnapped in Lanuza, Surigao, on Monday. Her companion, Merlyn Tequin, was abandoned by their captors in front after the ordeal.

Four more victims are in the hands of their abductors.

On Nov. 2, trader Rosabella Bacunda was abducted in Tigbao, Tipo-tipon; Jolito de Fernandez and Julio E. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

SEN. FRANCIS "Chiz" Escudero emerges from a van to the hospital room in Davao City of a volunteer nurse who was raped in Maguindanao. The victim had wished to see Kris Aquino and Escudero personally.

Raped volunteer nurse gets wish, sees Kris Aquino, Chiz in person

DAVAO CITY—Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero fulfilled the last of two wishes of a volunteer nurse who was raped in a Maguindanao town and is on her way to recovery at a hospital here.

Escudero came to visit the victim after actress and TV host Kris Aquino.

The raped nurse had expressed a desire to personally see Aquino, the President's sister, and Escudero, according to her doctors.

Aquino visited the victim at the state-run Southern Philippines Medical Center (SPMC) late Sunday. It was Escudero's turn yesterday.

"There was light talk. We joked," Escudero said after emerging from the victim's room.

Escudero said he also gave the victim, who was celebrating her birthday, cake and flowers.

As chair of the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights, Escudero said he would ask authorities for "updates on the case" and determine what else the Senate could do to help bring justice for the volunteer nurse.

"If two months have passed and it is still under investigation and it is a well-celebrated case and yet no one has been charged, what more can happen to ordinary people?" Escudero said.

He said police should do their duty to keep all Filipinos safe from harm.

He, however, said the case should not discourage other health workers from getting assignments to remote or high-risk areas as long as authorities could ensure their safety.

The victim was a volunteer nurse in a government hospital in South Upi, Maguindanao. Other health workers expressed rage over the rape, saying the assault on the victim was an indictment of law enforcement in the Philippines.

Escudero said, however, that he has confidence in the Department of Justice's handling of the case.

In her recent visit to the victim, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said authorities are hoping that the victim could soon identify her attackers.

Charges against six men earlier arrested have been dropped for lack of evidence.

De Lima has been challenging South Upi mun. Vice Mayor Ibrahim Ibrahim to submit himself to DNA tests.

Ibrahim continued to refuse to be tested, prompting the latter to say it was puzzling.

"Why is it that he would not cooperate?" De Lima had said.

The vice mayor claimed that his lawyer has advised him not to undergo any test unless ordered to so by the courts.

Lt. Leopoldo Vega, chief of the SPMC, said the victim may be able to check out of the hospital soon. Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao

Mining firm workers file notice of strike

BAGUIO CITY—The union of Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp. (LCMC) has filed a notice of strike at the National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB) after talks broke down over clothes than the existing three allegedly owed to workers.

Some of the officers involved in the talks were also counted among the 140 workers who were terminated by the firm in October, compelling the Lepanto Employees' Union (LEU) to consider filing union-busting charges against one of the country's major gold producers.

Lawyer Ana Dizon, Conciliator's director of the Department of Labor and Employment, said the laid-off workers were granted benefits and separation pay, "but we continue to monitor their production work."

The business mood has failed to obtain a statement from the company's officials in Manila-area, Benguet.

Some of the officials declined to comment, saying they were not authorized to discuss LCMC's troubles with the workers.

Manuel Bisuhaya Jr., LEU president, said the company had reneged on its obligations to raise wages, which were embodied in the 2008 collective bargaining agreement.

Instead, the company underwent a reduced work cycle in 2008, which lasted until February 2009, supposedly to address the economic crisis triggered by the United States recession, he said.

Bisuhaya said the reduced workload justified the delay in wage increases, and was overruled by lapses in the pay scheduling. "They still owe us for June until October this year," he said.

"To make matters worse, the company failed or refused to remit the employees' contributions to the Social Security System (SSS), thereby depriving its employees the benefits from the agency. In reality, the LCMC owed its workers some P250 million for unpaid wages and concomitant benefits," according to an LEU statement.

Ibrahim Ochoy, acting NCMB Conciliator-Director, has scheduled a conciliation meeting between LEU and LCMC on Nov. 17.

To assert its claims, the LEU plans to refer to a rumored joint venture deal that is being brokered between LCMC and Gold-fields Netherland. LTI AG, which would finance operations of LCMC's Mt. Tapian Gold Operations in Benguet, P6 million said.

"The company insists they have enclosure/enduring enough but we don't believe them. We have not stopped work. But we believe the new venture in Far South East is about to start and they have been hiring new people," he said. Hazel Cabrera, Inquirer Northern Luzon

60% LGU share in IRA sought

By Jove Gabieza
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—A congressman in one of the country's poorest provinces has filed a bill seeking to alter the balance of revenue sharing in favor of local governments.

Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone, whose province remains to be one of the poorest in the country, filed House Bill No. 140 that would increase internal revenue allotment (IRA) of local governments to 60 percent of total national revenues.

Evardone's bill would give the national government just 40 percent.

The existing revenue sharing scheme is 60 percent for the national government and 40 percent for LGUs.

The bill, if enacted, would be a big help for local governments that rely heavily on IRA.

Aside from IRA shares, local governments can generate income from taxes on local businesses.

Evardone said his bill would primarily benefit Eastern Visayas since almost all LGUs in the region were dependent on IRA.

"The current sharing scheme is really top-heavy," Evardone said.

2 Pasig cops arrested in Cavite town for extortion

CAMP MEGENTE LIM, Lupon—Two policemen were arrested for allegedly extorting money from a businesswoman in an entrapment operation in Imus, Cavite, police said on Sunday.

Senior Supt. Danilo Maligalig, Cavite police director, in a text message, named the suspects as Senior Insp. Sancho Calipe Jr. and PO3 Fernando Milangan, who were assigned to Pasig City.

In a phone interview, Supt. Conor Moreno, Imus police chief, said a certain Mariam Angeles, engaged in gold ba trading, earlier filed a complaint against the two policemen.

Based on Angeles' statement to police, Calipe and Milangan introduced themselves as members of the police special operations group in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) when they claimed to have arrested Angeles' four male business partners, who were supposed to deliver gold bars in Muntinlupa, Cavite, about a month ago.

Moreno said the two policemen then allegedly demanded, in a random operation to extort money from Angeles' partners.

"We arrest actually happened in Muntinlupa. They also did not have anyone in their custody and they were not assigned to operate in this region in the first place," he added.

The cursing cops were arrested on Monday inside a mall in Imus when Angeles paid the entrapment money amounting to P100,000. Authorities were tracking down the four others connected with the policemen.

Criminal and administrative charges of robbery and extortion were filed against the two policemen, which may lead to their dismissal from service.

Marlon Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Bryant fires 31 as Lakers clobber Bucks

MILWAUKEE—Kobe Bryant scored 31 points and Shannon Brown added 18 of his 21 in the final quarter as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Milwaukee Bucks 113-91 on Tuesday night to snap a two-game losing streak. Los Angeles, which won its first eight games before dropping consecutive home games, terminated what had been the longest defense in the NBA.

OTHER RESULTS: Bulls 96, Pacers 93; Nuggets 120, Knicks 118; Wizards 130, Raptors 84; Trail Blazers 100, Grizzlies 89; Cavaliers 107, 76ers 85. AP

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Tabuena grabs lead with 68, sparks PH golfers to 2nd

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

TABUENA: Tough course plays to his strengths.

GUANGZHOU—Teenager Miguel Tabuena swept into the individual lead with a 4-under-par 68 while powering the Philippines to second spot at the start of the golf competition of the Asian Games here Wednesday.

Sidelined by his coach's death in June, the 16-year-old Tabuena carded seven five-birdies against a lone bogey at the rain Dragon Lake Golf course to pull ahead by one stroke over South Korean Kim Meen-whee and Lee Jae-hyeok and Sri Lanka's Mithun Kailashanthige.

"I'm very happy with the way I played and I really hope I can keep this up," said Tabuena. "It's my first Asian Games and I got the lead in the first day so it's really good."

Tabuena not only justified his coach Tonny Manotoc's choice to pick him for the PH team starting in September's Incheon Cup.

He also eased the possibility of the country striking gold for the first time since 1986, when Ramon Bridoso prevailed during the sport's debut in the famed Asiad Games.

Michael Bibat won the individual bronze in the 2006 Doha Asiad.

Jhonnel Ballandan finished up Tabuena with a 73 for a 76 by national champion Mark Fernando pulled the country down to ninth place, eight strokes behind the Koreans.

With the 69 of Kim and Lee and a 72 from Nick Ji-hoon, Korea entered 210 against the Philippines' 210 and Sri Lanka's 222 under the four-to-play three-to-count format.

Carlos Marcial Pujol, the fourth Filipino, failed to cooperate with a 80.

As surprising as Tabuena's surge to the top was the dismal start of the country's female bets, who lay in sixth place, 13 strokes behind the pace-setting Chinese.

Mia Nicole carded a 78 and Clidan Ikeda added a 79 for 157, as Dottie Ardina failed to count with an 82.

China, with Tang Ang firing a leading 69, showed the way with 142, two clear of South Korea and 14 up on Chinese Taipei.

"We just made a statement today and I guess, opponents won't overlook us from forever," said Manotoc, describing Tabuena as "a smart golfer who plays statistically."

"I saw him in the jungoli (circuit) and I know he had a great future," Manotoc said.

Tabuena chipped in for birdie after missing the green on the par-3 third hole to spark his explosive start. He birdied the sixth and eighth for a 32 at the turn, added back-to-back birds on No. 10 and 11 before stumbling with a bogey on the 15th.

Manotoc said he was amazed at the way Tabuena played on a course that was just too willing to punish with its tight fairways, thick greens and rough pin placements.

"It actually played to my strengths because I'm a straight hitter, even if I really don't hit it that long," Tabuena said. "The plan was not to miss on the wrong side. I knew I couldn't go for the pin always."

Ballandan had three birdies against two bogeys on the front nine then took a double bogey on the par-5 11th that left him one over for the day.

"We're out of our league in the team competition," admitted Manotoc, whose Hein Gyi team also finished second to Thailand, which is mired in seventh here on 226.

Gold beckons in billiards, golf

Boxing nails maiden win; Filipinos shut out anew

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

GUANGZHOU—The highly regarded billiards squad continued cutting a path to the gold medal, Golf produced a pleasant surprise. And the boxing team bounced back from a bitter defeat.

There was only a bronze medal added to the Philippine tally in the 16th Asian Games Wednesday courtesy of rookie Iris Tuesday evening, but it was still a productive day for a delegation hanging on to even the slightest piece of good news.

Nilcris Kiamco and Dennis Orcollo went through quarterfinal [illegible] before handmeeting out identical 9-6 victories that put them in the semifinals against two of the favored [illegible] Asian foes.

Kiamco will face Taiwanese standout Ko Pin-yi while Orcollo battles Korean veteran Jeong Young Hun Wednesday at the Asian Games Town Gymnasium, which has become a graveyard for the medal hide of Filipino superstars like the legendary Elvis "Bata" Reyes and Roberto Gomez in [illegible] Games past.

But in those who lost [illegible] the Filipinos are ripe for the picking in this venue-specific billiards event, Kiamco insisted Tuesday.

"Kung makakuha man sila kami, dadaan muna sila at buuin ng konyum (They have to go through the eye of the needle to beat us)," said Kiamco, who shouted hometown bet Chang Jinhu the door.

Orcollo, the other bet[illegible] knocked off the challenge of Vietnamese Nguyen Phuc Long.

In golf, Miguel Tabuena fired a four-under 68 and found himself on top of the standings in the men's individual race by a stroke.

The 16-year-old rookie is sent to work early in the [illegible] Dragon Lake Golf Club, chipping in for birdie after missing the green at the par-3 No. 3 to lace a strong 33 on the front nine.

"I'm very happy with the way I played today and I really hope I can keep this up," said Tabuena. "It's my first Asian Games and I got the lead in the first day so it's really good."

His 68 also pushed the men's team to second with a two-over aggregate, eight shots behind pacesetting Korea.

"We're out of our league in the team competition," admitted men's coach Tonny Manotoc, who added that the men's [illegible] gave its best shot behind Tabuena's impressive game.

A pair of Tabuena wave-three dangerous foes—Sri Lanka's Mithunkanthige and the Korean pair of Kim Meen-whee and Lee Jae-hyeok.

Wilfredo Lopez carried the flag for emotive sports after unbeatable delicate outlet in the day taking no chances against an opponent in Saudi's Hanif Nasser and hammering out a 5-1 victory over Bangladesh's Sonia Bangali at the Baiyun Gymnasium at the heart of the [illegible] under 48 and found himself on top of the standings in the men's individual race by a stroke.

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DENNIS Orcollo prepares to take a shot in the 9-ball singles against Vietnam's Nguyen Phuc Long. Orcollowon, 9-6. PHOTO BY FRANCIS T.J. OCHOA

MIGUEL Molina tackles the breaststroke leg of his 200 IM. He landed fifth.

Ford River delta.

"I did what I had to do," the shy Lopez told the Inquirer. "I just stuck with jabs and straights and tried to figure him out. After I stuck him, that's when I went on the attack."

Wushu's bronze came Tuesday night when Shah Ednar finished third in the 60kg men's [illegible] event.

Miguel Molina also provided a decent result for swimming after finishing fifth in the 200m individual medley with a time of 2:04.24. Molina was close to six seconds behind eventual gold medal winner Ryo Takakuwa of Japan, who clocked 1:58.31 at the Aoti Aquatics Center.

Other swimmers failed to make it to the finals.

Jasmine Alkhaldi missed the train in the women's 100 free, finishing third in her heat with a time of 58.81 seconds. Daniel Coakley was last in the men's 100 free in 52.71 in a heat he shared with Korean pool star Park Tae-hwan. Charles Walker was ninth in his heat to the same event at 52.40. Erica Totten was third in her heat in the women's 800 free with a time of 8:34.11.

At Aoti shooting range, Stellamid "Tet" Padilla finished 11th in the men's 25m standard pistol while across the street at the tennis center, Cecil Mamiit and Treat Huey advanced to the second round of doubles competition via a walkover.

Taekwondo's suffered sorry losses as it opened up competition Wednesday.

Samuel Workineh lost to Thailand's Nirman Thongsaphap in an action-packed bout, 20-11. Morkeun injured his leg after a 15-5 victory over Nepali Dan Bahadur Ale to his first match. Malaysian Olympian Elaine Teo ousted Jen Mann Limsiriwilai off the mat, 6-3.

The Iran that beat most saw Shahin Lajani absorb a 13-4 setback from Youth Olympics standout Dana Tourani of Jordan.

Also nursing Leila Hossaini, 3-0, Lajani was going for a semifinal slot and took a 6-3 lead against Tourani.

But she got rattled by a kick to the head and's then dressed out of the bout to mark a one-point declaration. All of a sudden, the score was tied. Lajani pressed the attack and got nailed in the head again.

Garcia confident more triumphs on the horizon

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DON'T WORRY, the gold medals are in the pipeline.

That was the confident statement of Philippine Sports Commission chair Richie Garcia yesterday, saying the country's Olympiclean talent medal machinery is "still on track."

"Let us not judge them too early, let's give the athletes a chance to perform," said Garcia who arrived Tuesday night from China. "Our golds are forthcoming."

He added that on the only gold that was expected back didn't come to pass in the 8-ball singles of men's billiards where Efren "Bata" Reyes and Roberto Gomez lost in Indian fare.

"That was the only expected gold that didn't materialize so far. The gold of Mikey Zhuwa in men's singles bowling is unexpected so I guess that offset everything," said Garcia.

Garcia said boxing can still yield one gold despite the loss of Charly Suarez, while taekwondo is good for two more gold [illegible] with Olympian Tshoraine Ou and promising [illegible] Workineh getting a bye.

He also cited reigning Asian champion Marcelito Torres in long jump.

WARREN Kiamco studies the table layout after breaking.

Orcollo, Kiamco eye all-Pinoy finals

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

GUANGZHOU—They are both calculating around the pool table.

As one point, because of how the game shapes were drawn up, they found themselves on opposite sides, tipping fists just minutes apart to enter the quarterfinals before surviving nerve-jolting opponents in finally reach the semifinals.

But that's as far as the similarity between Warren Kiamco and Dennis Orcollo goes.

Orcollo is soft-spoken while Kiamco is a younger version of Efren "Bata" Reyes. He speaks truly but, in lieu of the Magician's humorous quips, Kiamco parles pride-filled snipe.

Told that a Bayed PH pool team, now down to its fighting few, no longer [illegible] the same aura and respect like it did before—when the mere presence of Filipino cue artists caused foes to fought elementary shots—Kiamco agreed.

In those 16th Asian Games where an [illegible] has been handed off the country's biggest names, Kiamco and Filipinos are prone to upsets.

But in opponents who think that the remaining pool warriors are now easy prey, Kiamco, no Filipino, issued this warning. "Even if they beat us, they will have to pass through the cradle's eye."

Kiamco also knocked Ko Pin-yi and Olympian women Jeong Young Hun, who lured. The two Asian stars stood in the way of the gold Kiamco and Orcollo are eyeing—a gold medal to make the [illegible] down to its fighting few, no longer [illegible] the same aura and respect like it did before—when the mere presence of Filipino cue artists caused foes to fought elementary shots—Kiamco agreed.

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PH cagers shrug off loss to Iran, scuttle Qataris

HUJUNG Kai-centre Kandoutpeerthiest dunk's a Smart Gilas-Pilipinas triple-team of (from left) Chris Tiu, Asi Taulava and Wes Barraca as he raises a shot.

By Jane Navarro

GUANGZHOU—Smart Gilas Pilipinas made up for a horrendous performance the night before with an overpowering show Thursday.

Stunned by powerhouse Iran, 69-63, late Wednesday the Filipinos came back to decimate Qatar, 90-66, in the 16th Asian Games at the Huangpu Gymnasium here.

Asi Taulava anchored a scoring onslaught in the first half as the Filipinos built a 21-point lead entering the third period.

Skipper Chris Tiu and shooting guard Marc Lauster combined for 23 points while 7-footer Greg Slaughter and Asi Taulava alternated in pounding several crushed stops inside the paint against the taller Qataris.

Cade scored 15 of his 22 points in the first half, when the Filipinos took an 49-28, as they outplayed a team that boasts of naturalized African players.

Smart Gilas opened the carnage with a 7-0 burst on Cade's incomplete three-point play, Mac Belencario's slam-jammer and a backdoor alley-oop by Kelly Williams.

Yaqoub Ajeweiw, Qatar's top scorer, and Ahmad Mohammed helped Qatar charge back but Slaughter scored back-to-back baskets for a 23-16 Smart Gilas advantage.

Tiu and Lauster then combined with Cade for 20 points in the second quarter as the Nationals pegged the halftime score at 49-28 as Cade buzzer-beating three.

The Filipinos will go up against Japan Friday following today's rest day. The Filipinos are scheduled to meet India on Nov. 21 before wrapping up the second round against Oman on Nov. 22.

Tiffin, emergency and more valuable as a unit, the Iranians handed their former coach Rajko Toroman and the Smart Gilas a terrible whipping at the start of second-round play Thursday.

"It was my worst game as a coach of Smart Gilas," said Toroman after the game that saw the Filipinos score only 38 points after three quarters and shoot 38 percent (17 of 45) from the field.

Smart Gilas was also soundly beaten by the Iranians in rebounding, assists, steals, points from turnovers and points in the paint.

"It seemed when we didn't play the kind of offense that we're supposed to play" said Toroman. "That was the biggest problem."

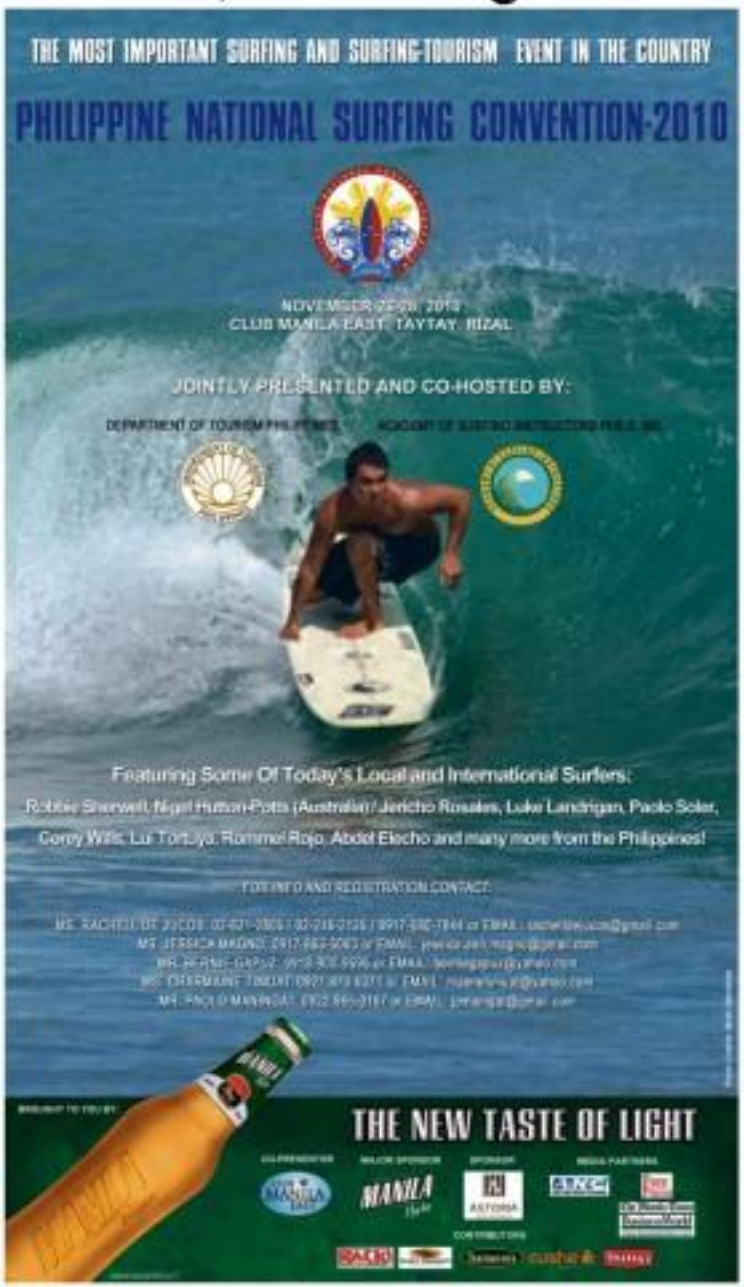
The Nationals scored just 10 points in each of the first three quarters, trailing 27-20 and 47-38 going into the last period behind the shooting of guard Hamed Alhajri and the 6-foot-11 Hamed Saleebrajeel.

Toroman said the offensive breakdown was a result of the team's failure to work cohesively.

"Our predestined players have yet to adjust with the system," said Toroman, referring to Dhil-more Sedurifa, Williams and Ed Mercado.

Japan downed Chinese Taipei, 63-57, and Qatar walloped India, 97-48, in other second-round games Tuesday.

In the other group, defending champion China crushed Mongolia, 93-40; South Korea slumped Uzbekistan, 103-59; and Jordan outclassed North Korea, 90-80.



BARANGAY Ginebra's Willy Wilson tries to get out of a tough Barako Bulls defense led by Chad Alonzo (20). AUDREY MACOCAY

SMB overcomes TNT

Beermen regain solo lead; Gin Kings notch No. 6

By Marcus R. Castillo

OLDEN RACELA came off the bench to fire three crucial triples that carried San Miguel to a 93-88 victory over arch-rival Talk 'N Text and back into the solo lead last night of the PBA Philippine Cup eliminations at the Araneta Coliseum.

The 40-year-old veteran made the most out of the little playing time he has been getting in his recent retirement, giving the Beermen a decisive 88-73 lead entering the final with barely five minutes left.

The Beermen improved to 8-2 and moved out of a momentary tie forged by Barangay Ginebra earlier as the Gin Kings rolled to a tournament-best ninth straight win after pinning Barako Bull, 90-79.

Ronald Tubid scored 19 points, and Mark Cardona scored 14 of his 17 in the fourth quarter for Ginebra, which boosted its record to 7-2 while dealing the Energy Boosters their fourth straight loss, the longest in the tournament.

The shooters left deeper into the cellar with a 2-7 record, now a full game behind joint ninth-placers Powerade and the 22...

"We really struggled at the start and that's what we were afraid of," Ginebra coach Jong Uichico told reporters.

Jay Washington scorered 20 points and pitched down 11 boards and Mo Claudget and Dondon Hontiveros added 11 for the Beermen.

Jason Castro and Ali Peek scored 15 each to lead the Tridents, who lost for the third time in nine matches. Harvey Carey added 11 and pulled down a career-high-tying 23 rebounds.

The scores:

First Game

GINEBRA (90) – Tubid 19, Cardona 17, Miller 11, Mariano 8, Ilagan 7, Ellasus 6, Pinto 5, Caram 5, Helterbrand 3, Aban 2, Wilson 2, Slaughter 2.

BARAKO BULL (79) – Washington 20, Claudget 11, Hontiveros 11, Racela 10, Ildefonso 7, Pascual 6, Sumang 4, Ayaay 3, Ferrer 3, Ebona 2, Ponferrada 0.

Quarters: 19-22, 39-37, 62-54, 90-79.

TALK 'N TEXT (88) – Castro 15, Peek 15, Carey 11, Villegas 10, Tungcab 8, Reyes 6, Khobuntin 5, Pascual 5, Ayaay 4, Ferrer 4, Ebona 2, Ponferrada 0.

GLOBALPORT (73) – Ilagan 17, Ramos 15, Ahanmisi 11, Ferrer 8, Ighalo 7, Ayaay 5, Ebona 4, Ponferrada 3, Sumang 2, Tungcab 1.

Quarters: 19-15, 36-32, 58-49, 88-73.

There must be an end to this madness

GIL "Bare Eye" Mercado Pacquiao had caught him a monster cold compared to how Antonio Margarito appeared after a nightmarish appearance on the boards of the Filipino boxing superhero inside the ring last Sunday.

That is if we go by the number of question thrown and handed to the grey-eyed boxer at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Using by-their-pamphlet tricks, Margarito had been cute even by a delivery truck reference. Pacquite seemed to have been caught in a sudden downpour.

* * *

Actually, Margarito, whom Pacquiao visited in his dugout after the bout, ended up in the hospital and had to stay overnight for signs of his busted right eye and fractured chin bone.

Pacquiao, on the other hand, appeared groggy, feebly stretched, except for a bruise on the left cheekbone and a swollen pinch that also earned him a $15 million purse.

Sorry, but that was just merely the case.

* * *

Nearly a full day after the fight, Andrew Thompson had to say it to the Filipino journalists' to keep Pacquiao's subsequent trip to the hospital under wraps.

Sorry, Jinkee was told, there was no way it would be kept, Pacquiao being a public figure.

As expected by the same broadcaster, Pacquiao threw himself in to obliterate hospital no. Tuesday where he near underwent computerized tomography (MRI).

The procedure had to be done to determine the extent of a swelling, throbbing pain around Pacquiao's left eye.

Prior to this, it was reported that Pacquiao had been seen being helped up and escorted to a morning victory to also advance to the national finals at the Cebu Coliseum on Sunday.

The UST Phoenix, with Slaughter throwing 25 points, held off Mindanao champion Agro Industrial Foundation College, 83-81, in overtime to wrap up their campaign with a 3-0 mark.

BARE EYE

Ronah Trinidad

by Jinkee.

* * *

Hey, at least, nobody seemed to care enough that Pacquiao had also been injured and greatly hurt during his gore encounter with Margarito.

The damage didn't show, and until yesterday, head-high fans never still in a celebratory mood.

"Hay! Ugh ito, Mga Utass (Tawsilos here and there)," cried a portion of reporters' retreats on his way back from Lengolas to go to Ayalaya Homes in Mandaluyong.

Anyway, Pacquiao was later cleared, with no serious internal injuries.

Also more opportunities, the national boxing icon proceeded to issue a countdown to Labo Dance, where he held a course.

* * *

Everything's A-OK, nothing to worry!

Pacquiao said his entourage are scheduled to return home on Saturday morning.

Before Pacquiao could pack his bones, trainer Freddie Roach said the great warrior, who has given boxing a pleasant and unpretentious face, should be allowed a discussion celebrated.

Roach was hoping his recommendation on the necessity of punishment which, although not readily visible during the fight, he had observed in him and even him the session.

Earlier, Roach was quoted as saying he would never again allow Pacquiao to fight out of the welterweight division.

* * *

It was on last letter Roach finally realized the constant disparity in weight which clearly caused Pacquiao to absorb unutterable punishments inside the ring.

OK. Pacquiao will no longer fight heavier than 147 pounds, but the more relevant thing to do is for Roach, Pacquiao and all other respected fight pointers to put an end to this cruel principle of allowing two men to engage themselves in a fight or to refer to complete a competitive and scientific championship.

They mean stop feeding the gored of incompetitive fight impressions.

* * *

Roach and Pacquiao should lend a glance for a corrective measures to prevent a repeat of that gory evening in Arlington where Pacquiao was greatly humiliated, after being slapped a humiliating the his brilliance and recognition.

"The cardiorright practice could be allowed, but only if this is done within one division, in Pacquiao's case, only within welterweights," protested lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud, chairman of the secretary general of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Salud said allowing Pacquiao, who declared in a recently welterweight at 144.8 lb during the weigh-in, to be bullied by a barely half-blown middleweight who weighs at 160 lb was both irresponsible and criminal.

This is not funny even in scripted wrestling bouts.

The Philippine Badminton Association (PBA) will hold the HISTORY - MAKES RANKIN PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OPEN AND YOUTH BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS, the first ever sanctioned Philippine National Open and Youth Badminton Championships for 2013, on December 27-29 at Club 600, Quezon City (preliminaries) and at the PSC Badminton Hall, Manila on December 29-30 (quarterfinals to finals).

Part of the PBA development program for the Filipino youth and for the further growth of the sport, the Youth Championships will feature boys' singles, girls' singles, boys' doubles and girls' doubles in two age categories – U16 (born on or after 1998), U17 (born on or after 1996), U19 (born on or after 1994), U21 (born on or after 1992) and U41 (born on or after 2000) published after the Asian Youth International.

The Open Championships will feature the five individual events – men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles. Further details will be placed in posters and publications. For inquiries, please email philippinesbadminton@gmail.com or contact +63(2)5357033, +63(9)4462006 or +63(917)5555207.

Related to this, the PBA would like to inform all badminton event organizers and sports enthusiasts that being the sole GOVERNING BODY of the sport in the Philippines, recognized by and affiliated with the Badminton Asia Confederation (BAC) and the Badminton World Federation (BWF), it is the only authorized organization to sanction badminton events in the country. In order to protect public interest and the integrity of the sport (badminton), the PBA welcomes more badminton tournaments and supports event organizers to continue organizing such tournaments as long as they comply with PBA rules and guidelines. We indeed appreciate your efforts in helping make badminton more fun and popular.

Moreover, the PBA wishes to inform the badminton public that it **did not** sanction – nor did the organizers seek permission to hold – the Kwan Samrax Philippine National Open Badminton Championships 2013 to be held on November 13-20, 2013; and that the PBA has no participation whatsoever in said event.

MRS. ARELLYN M. RAMOS
President

Warriors, Wildcats secure Sweet 16 berths

UNIVERSITY OF San Carlos completed a sweep of the Philippine Collegiate Champions League Visayas Division tournament to book a return trip to the Sweet 16, even as University of Iloilo pulled off a stunning victory to also advance to the national finals at the Cebu Coliseum on Sunday.

The USC Warriors, with Stars themselves firing 25 points, held off Mindanao champion Agro Industrial Foundation College, 83-81, in overtime to wrap up their campaign with a 3-0 mark.

UI, which lost its first two assignments, completed a dizzying turnaround after crushing Southwestern University, 83-67.

The Warriors went to meet University of Visayas as the stars of the Sweet 16 yesterday while the UI Wildcats were playing University of Cebu.

The Far Eastern U Jose Rizal U duel is also set today as the Cebu Coliseum. Each FEU Tamaraws and JRU Heavy Bombers will battle for the third time in nine months. Harvey Carey added 11 and pulled down a career-high-tying 23 rebounds.

SPORTSWATCH

Bodybuilding championship set in Tabod

A 12-bb. cash prize of P300,000 will be up for grabs in the Sen-Bobbie Madrazo-Filipino Bodybuilding Championships on Saturday at the Mindanao Civic Center in Tabod, Lanao del Norte.

Some of the country's top bodybuilders are competing in the event supported by Sen. Khalid Dimaporo, according to Hinge Bolilan of the organizing PBA (Philippine Body Building Sports Federation).

The overall winner will get P10,000. Title will be awarded in the probasic male, female figure, small, medium and tall for male amateur classes.

Officials of the Asian Bodybuilding Federation are expected to attend.

"A national competition like this only proves that Lanao del Norte is truly a peaceful place," said Dimaporo.

Checkmate clinics unfold in 4 venues Saturday

THE PAL Jayvi 2013 Mini-sponsored Checkmate Clinic on Saturday only three clinic kicks off Saturday in four venues in Metro Manila.

The venues and their respective time slots: Wy Chabi Kindergarten, at the corner of Maliksi and E. Rodriguez Streets, Bacoor City (8:30 a.m. to 11:30); Tiwala Plaza, at the corner of 8th and 10th Avenue, Manila (8:30 a.m. to 11:30); Ayala Malls Solenad Nuvali, at the corner of 5th and 10th Avenue, Manila (8:30 a.m. to 11:30); Ayala Malls Solenad Nuvali, at the corner of 5th and 10th Avenue, Manila (8:30 a.m. to 11:30); Ayala Malls Solenad Nuvali, at the corner of 5th and 10th Avenue, Manila (8:30 a.m. to 11:30).

Anniversary 4-cock derby at Elorde's

A 100 anniversary 4-cock derby will be held starting 6 a.m. on Monday at the Elorde Cockpit Stadium on Dewit Road in Parañaque.

Promoted by businessman-sportsman Johnny Dante, the 17th annual derby dangles a guaranteed prize of P300,000, with P1,300 going to the winning handler and P30,000 to the gaffer. Minimum bet is at P5,000.

Pre-fight bout is from 12 to 24 hp.

Elimination of weight is from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday. For inquiries, call 805-4482 or 825-0980.

WTJ hosts 'Goldquest Champs' derby today

METROMANILA's big-time cockfight breeders troop to the WTJ Sports and Amusement Center in Makati today as the "Goldquest Champions 5-Cock Derby" gets off at 1 p.m. today featuring more than 80 fights.

No less than 8 million is guaranteed prize will be given to the champion, according to host Champion Cruz.

The derby is a fitting follow-up to last week's "13th Big Event 6-Cock Derby" which Patricia Golden Man Dynasty-Dagupan Pag-asa's team.

Meanwhile, the WTJ Cocker will also host the "Makati Na Makati 4-Cock Derby" on Nov. 23. Guaranteed prize is P300,000.

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- A dark-level play deck
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MMDA wants bus franchises canceled

Start from scratch to weed out rogue operators, agency says

By Tina G. Santos

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is seeking the cancelation of all bus franchises to weed out rogue operators.

A senator, on the other hand, wants to revoke the franchises and licenses of those who contributed to the transport shortage on Monday.

"Maybe what we need is a legislative initiative to nullify existing franchises and have all operators apply for new ones," said MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino.

"Just like how the Commission on Elections wants no flying voters and double registrants, the bank of voters is amended and a new registration is held. In our case, we can junk the list of franchisees and have all operators apply for new franchises. That way, we can root from zero and weed out the rogue and color-use operators," he said.

MMDA traffic enforcers flag down buses as they wait for passengers on Edsa near Cubao, Quezon City during the second day of the number-coding scheme. RAFFY LERMA

Back on the road

While buses were back on the road Wednesday, Tolentino said some bus companies were resourceful enough to find a way to dodge the number-coding scheme.

"Some bus companies told their taxi operators whose fleets stopped plying their routes.

"They never presented their problems. Then when I was coming home from Japan, this is what they came up with," the President told reporters yesterday.

"It appears that there was bad faith," he added. "A franchise is a privilege and not a right. You have obligations that come with the privilege.

The President said he met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa and top officials of the Department of Transportation and Communications, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, Land Transportation Office and Metro Manila Development Authority on Tuesday to tackle the traffic problems in the metro.

Also a public service

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III, on the other hand, said yesterday he would file a resolution urging the Land Transportation and Franchising Bureau to immediately revoke the franchise and license of operators and drivers who caused the transport shortage last Monday.

"These people have just made it easier for us to remove them from the streets. They forget that bus transport is not just a business but also a public service," Sotto said reporters.

The senator said a state bus monopoly was the best solution to the congestion on Edsa. With reports from Norman Bordadora and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

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No strike!

Bus operators, however, denied that there was a strike. One of their leaders, Chito de la Fuente, claimed there was just a misunderstanding with their drivers who thought there was a strike when there was really none.

Asked why certain areas remain congested despite the implementation of the number-coding scheme on buses, Tolentino said the number-coding scheme was meant to "thin the herds on a random basis."

"But it will not totally solve the traffic problem," he said. "Besides, there is really an oversupply of buses, that's why even with the supposed 20 percent reduction due to the number-coding, seven seven remain crowded."

Woman bitten by dog files raps vs mall, security agency

By Tina G. Santos

THE WOMAN bitten by a bomb-sniffing dog in a mall in Makati City went the week-end last filed charges against the establishment and its security agency.

According to case investigator SPO2 Jonah Ortega, Virginia Hilario, 40, of Imelda Street, Barangay La Paz, filed a complaint in the Makati Police department against Custech Corp and 3 Bantam Investors Security Agency.

Hilario, who suffered deep bite wounds in the face, particularly between her eyes and forehead, said she initially had no plans of filing a complaint against the mall and the security agency, and only wanted to be reimbursed for hospital expenses she incurred which already reached almost P50,000.

"But when I went back to talk to them, the K9 handler said he was advised to tell me to just file a case in court, so that's what I intend to do now," she told Inquirer.

"They showed no compassion and until now I have not heard from them," she added.

The incident happened around 4 p.m. last Nov. 13 at the second floor of the Cash & Carry in Barangay Pitogo.

Hilario said she and her 17-year-old son were killing time in the mall when she saw the dog.

Being a dog-lover, she approached the Belgian Malinois. "I used to have 15 dogs at home, but now I only have nine. That's how much I love dogs," she said.

Hilario said she asked the handler's permission to pet the dog before she touched it. But when she bent closer to look at the dog's ears, it suddenly attacked her, she said.

"They [the security guards] said in an interview that they took care of me and paid for my hospital bills," Hilario said.

Police said the mall's security agency and the K9 dog's handler could face charges of reckless imprudence resulting in physical injury and violation of the Anti-Rabies Act of 2007.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) yesterday said it has intercepted its K9 units to take the necessary precautions with

Pasig councilor shot by lone gunman

METROBRIEFS

Sneak attack

A MAN trained an unknown device on the front window of Valenzuela councilor Lanie Sotelo, Sta. Ana, Manila, Rolando "Bantoy" Asunsio hacked the back of Reynaldo Santos, 48, using a cutlass, police said. Asunsio was accompanied by an unidentified gunman. Santos said he was in his sala living room when he heard successive gunshots, which he later found to have been targeted at his nephew, Arbey Laurente, 29. Laurente was hit on his torso. Santos was then attacked by Asunsio. Asunsio and the gunman then boarded a motorcycle and fled. Police recovered an spent shells of a firearm of unknown caliber and a cutlass measuring around 24 inches from the scene. The victims are recuperating at the Sta. Ana Hospital and at the Ospital ng Maynila. Jaymee Gamil

Footwear exhibit

THE MAYOR of Marikina City earlier day attended the city government's plan to open a permanent trade outlet along the Marikina River Park where will showcase the footwear products for which the city has been known. Mayor Bayani Fernando said that instead of seasonal bazaar, projects like the flight bazaar of the park which opened on Monday and will run until January, would set up a trade center as a revenue generating project for the city. The trade fair will feature Marikina-made footwear, bags, and other leather products. Park Haven, public information head of Marikina City, said the bazaar is an annual project of the local government. Alvin Calleja

By Hiria Cullejo

A PASIG City councilor was wounded Wednesday morning after an unidentified gunman shot him at a vacant lot beside his house in Pasig City.

There are no reports that Valenzuela, 55, was engaged in a conversation with friends near his house on Rambo Street in Barangay San Miguel on Monday around 8:20 a.m. when a man shot him several times, Senior Supt. Jesus Cardona, Pasig police chief said.

Police said the gunman is first presumed to be a commuter asking for financial help, then suddenly drew a pistol and shot Revales in the face.

The man also shot the councilor in the knees and abdomen, said SPO4 Ruben Garcia, investigator on the case.

He hurriedly fled with two other men aboard a motorcycle and headed towards Guitna Center in Ortigas Extension.

Police said Revales was out of danger as of Wednesday afternoon but remained confined at Medical City Hospital for gunshot wounds.

A police official who requested anonymity said the shooting could be politically motivated. Revales is rumored to the chair of the city council's committee on labor and investigation.

The victim had gone after traffic violators and colorum drivers because of his position in the city council, he added.

The councilor's son, Orlando, also serves as barangay chair of San Miguel, Pasig City, in the October elections.

'More tests before pipeline reopens'

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy wants DOE more intensive tests to examine the integrity of the fuel pipeline owned by the Lopez-led First Philippine Industrial Corp., (FPIC) before it recommends the resumption of the pipeline operations.

Energy Undersecretary Jay Layug said yesterday that apart from the pronouncement, tests that were completed last Saturday, they have also asked FPIC to conduct a hoot-hole test in identified critical areas along the pipeline.

These are areas where parts of the pipeline are located near or under various infrastructures, such as the Magallanes flyover.

The DOE also told FPIC to allconduct a engineered process test of the entire 117-kilometer pipeline, which brought fuel from Batangas to the Petroleum depot in Manila prior to its closure.

"From the DOE perspective, we made it clear to everybody during our meeting last Saturday that pressure testing alone was not sufficient," Layug stressed.

At the same time, Layug said the DOE will tap both local and international experts to seek a validation of all the results that will be gathered from the FPIC tests.

"Before the pipeline is re-opened, we will make sure that it is safe to operate it again. We don't have a timetable as to when we can reopen the pipeline. We don't want to rush this. Safety is our first concern. While we have concerns about supply, we're relying on balancing the supply factor versus the safety issue. We have to make sure that before we operate it, at least endorse the operator of the pipeline, it is safe to do so," Layug explained.

Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras advised Layug's assessments as he stressed that while the government wanted to resolve the pipeline problem as soon and as fast as possible, public and environmental safety remained the primary consideration.

"But there are legal matters already on the table. That's why the DOE has to be very careful about what it does. We will be as transparent and as open as we are should we before we reopen the pipeline," Almendras added.

These tests, however, could mean that the pipeline would remain shut for a longer period, causing further distress to the local supply situation of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Chevron, users of the pipeline.

Woman bitten by dog files raps vs mall, security agency

From page A11

their explosives and narcotics-sniffing dogs to extend shoddy services.

Likewise, the K9 handlers were reminded that K9s are supposed to be highly trained to protect or secure the public and not to harm or intimidate those they are hired or tasked to protect, the PNP said in a statement.

The PNP K9 teams are part of security measures in place in the ports and on passenger ships prior to their departure or upon arrival here or the piers.

With a report from Jerome Aning

The Ampatuans' other sins

ON TARGET
Raymund Fabilo

THE NEW YORK-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) says apart from the massacre of 57 people—including 32 media workers last year—the perpetrators of illegal detainees were involved in at least 56 other crime cases.

These involved killings, rape, torture and abductions, according to the HRW.

The worst atrocity the Ampatuans did was visiting up opponents with a clearance, results of investigations made by HRW showed.

The 32 human rights group says President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who is now a representative of Pampanga, rendered the abuses and atrocities of the Ampatuans.

But why did it have to take a human rights group to point out the abuses of the Ampatuans?

Why didn't the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), then headed by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, investigate the Ampatuans for the abuses?

* * *

Fault to tell, the Ampatuans would still be in power if they didn't kill the media people who accompanied their political opponent to the Commission on Elections office to file a certificate of candidacy for governor.

If the Mangudadatus and their Maslim supporters were the ones who were killed—and not the Ampatuans' relatives—the massacre would not have been given much attention by the outside world.

The massacre would just have been written off as a political vendetta or family-feud revenge in a province used to all sorts of violence.

Muslims are used to killing one another when they're not fighting Christians.

That's probably the reason the CHR did not notice the atrocities committed by the Ampatuans against their fellow Muslims.

Mindanao Muslims are, by and large, used to violence, so what's another killing in there?

* * *

The extent and seriousness of the Maguindanao massacre didn't immediately sink in on then President Gloria when the report reached Malacañang.

She talked to Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr. who assured her over the phone that everything was "normal" in the province, according to Palace sources.

She probably thought, "What the heck, if the killing was politically motivated then the Ampatuans deserve it; get out of the mess they're in and clean it up."

That President was not immediately informed that some media persons were victims.

And even if some media persons were victims, so what she is now?

Weren't media people pro-killing—killing Gloria and Mike's reign of terror against media?

* * *

President Noy has retained Ferdinar Tumpinos as president of the government-owned National Steel Corp.

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Russian 'Merchant of Death' arrives in NY

NEW YORK—A Russian labeled the "Merchant of Death" by those who claim he fueled some of the world's deadly Third World conflicts over the last decade with powerful weapons has arrived in the United States. He faces charges of conspiracy to murder, trying to overthrow the government of Colombia and shared their hatred for Americans.

Viktor Bout arrived late Thursday at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, New York, before he was brought to the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan to await an initial court appearance expected on Wednesday afternoon.

Bout, 45, a former Soviet military officer and air cargo executive, was flown from Bangkok, Thailand, to suburban New York on a chartered US plane just four days before an extradition order would have expired, preventing him to be found and returned home to his native Moscow.

Instead, he was taken in manacles and a bulletproof vest as Russian diplomats made a final outraged push to persuade Thailand to reinstate him, according to US officials.

US Attorney General Eric Holder said Bout was considered "one of the world's most prolific arms traffickers."

"Viktor Bout has been indicted in the United States, but his alleged arms trafficking activity and support of armed conflicts in Africa has been a cause of concern around the world," Holder said in a statement. "His extradition is a victory for the rule of law worldwide."

For several months, US and Russian officials had battled for control of Bout, finding muscles to a manner that seemed to threaten cooperation on arms control, nuclear weapons curbs and the war in Afghanistan.

In one high-profile meeting in Hanoi last month, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov warned US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton that Russia's cooperation on antinarcotics efforts in Afghanistan might be curtailed unless Bout was freed.

Lavrov said in remarks broadcast on Russian television on Tuesday that the Thai government's decision was "an example of glaring injustice."

President Barack Obama's administration insisted its efforts to rebuild relations with Moscow would weather any turbulence caused by Bout's extradition. Department of State spokesperson P.J. Crowley acknowledged possible "ripples" in relations with Moscow but added that any severe ones would be managed.

That confidence could be tested as early as Saturday, when Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev attend a Russia-Nato meeting in Lisbon, Portugal.

An indictment filed in federal court in Manhattan labels Bout an international weapons trafficker who assembled a fleet of cargo planet to transport weapons and military equipment to various failed states and to insurgents in Third World countries in Africa, South America and the Middle East from the 1990s until his arrest in Bangkok in March 2008.

Estimated to be worth $6 billion, Bout had remained in a Thai jail as his supporters fought to prevent him from handing in US custody from issues he's a legitimate businessman.

In Moscow, Bout's lawyer and brother voiced shame that American officials would pressure him into incriminating himself to others. The attorney, Viktor Burobin, said the United States had already offered Bout better treatment in custody in exchange for his cooperation.

And Sergei Bout, a key figure in his brother's global air cargo empire, warned that the United States would "make some kind of injustices to get volunteer they want out of him."

After Bout was handed from a Thai prison to a waiting jet early Sunday, the Russian foreign ministry branded the extradition "unlawful," prompted by "unprecedented political pressure from the USA." AP

Prospects for nuclear pact fade

WASHINGTON—An agreement between the United States and Russia to slash their nuclear arsenals was in danger of collapse after an influential Republican senator said it should not be ratified this year.

With a new statement on Tuesday, Sen. Jon Kyl dealt a major setback to President Barack Obama's efforts to improve ties with Russia and to his broader strategy for reducing nuclear weapons worldwide. The treaty, known as New START, had been seen as one of Obama's top foreign policy accomplishments.

Without the support of Kyl, the leading Republican voice on the treaty, Democrats have little hope of securing the nine eligible Republican votes—the minimum they would need for ratification in the current Senate.

Kyl's position, unless reversed, would delay the vote until the newly elected Senate, with an expanded Republican minority, has been sworn in in January. Democrats would then need the support of at least 14 Republicans.

The White House has been trying to avoid that fate, fearing that ratification could dip out of reach in the face of opposition to the treaty from most Republicans and an increasingly partisan political environment in the run-up to the November election.

At a minimum, that probably would set the treaty back for months, because Republicans are likely to demand new hearings in the Senate foreign relations committee so that newly elected lawmakers would be briefed. AP

ALONE Suu Suu Kyi goes on a legal offensive on Tuesday, filing a petition with the country's High Court to have her National League for Democracy reinstated. AFP

Aung San Suu Kyi presses party's case

RANGOON—The military government of Burma (Myanmar) has not warned against filing complaints over the Nov. 7 election—a move that could spell trouble for pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi who has vowed to probe alleged voting irregularities.

The warning on Tuesday put Suu Kyi on a possible collision course with the ruling generals, just days after her release from more than seven years of house arrest. The 67-year-old Nobel Peace laureate cited failure in the expectations of the country's pro-democracy movement with the reality that has freedom could be withdrawn any time by the hardline regime.

Suu Kyi voice on a legal offensive on Tuesday, filing an official petition with the High Court to have her political party reinstated. The junta disbanded it each at this year for failing to register after choosing not to take part in the election, complaining conditions set by the junta were unfair and undemocratic.

In a reminder of how delicately she has to tread, the official Union Election Commission warned on Tuesday that political parties making fraudulent complaints about the polls may face harsh legal punishment.

Full results from this month's election have yet to be released, but figures so far give the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party a solid majority in both houses of parliament.

Critics have complained the vote was rigged and designed to cement the power of the military which has ruled Burma for five decades.

Anyone who files fraudulent complaint of vote-rigging can be jailed for three years, fined 300,000 kyats ($300), or both, the commission said.

Suu Kyi has already announced her intention to join party colleagues in an investigation of alleged electoral fraud.

She told reporters, however, that while her party planned to issue a report, it had no plans to pursue the results of the election as it didn't take part. AP

The election was the first in Burma since a 1990 vote won by Suu Kyi's party the National League for Democracy was barred from taking power and has faced near-constant repression.

A day after her release, Suu Kyi told thousands of solidly cheering supporters at her party headquarters on Sunday that she would continue to fight for human rights and the rule of law. In press interviews, she has spoken more of reconciliation than justice. AP

14 killed in mine explosion

PHNOM PENH—Four more people died in western Cambodia when their homemade mines ran over an antitank mine left over from the country's civil war in the 1980s, an official said on Wednesday.

The incident occurred Tuesday in Battambang province, 250 kilometers northwest of the capital Phnom Penh, while the farmers were on their way back from a field harvesting chilies, Maj. Ruth Sandee said.

He said 12 of them were killed instantly, including a year-old girl, and the two others died on the way to a hospital.

The police officer said the area was the site of intense battles between the Khmer Rouge and government forces in the 1980s and early 1990s and thus was seeded with numerous mines.

An estimated four to six million land mines and other unexploded ordnance from years of armed conflict continue to maim or kill Cambodians each year.

Prime Minister Hun Sen said earlier this year that it would still take years to clear the country's vast tracts of land mines that endanger lives in nearly half of the country's 24 provinces.

Cambodian and foreign deminers in have destroyed 2.7 million mines and unexploded ordnance over almost 320 square kilometers and the number of mine casualties has dropped significantly but the explosives remains a major threat. AP

US solon convicted of breaking ethics rules

WASHINGTON—A House member who once wielded great influence was convicted on Tuesday on 11 counts of breaking ethics rules and now faces punishment. The veteran lawmaker immediately announced the verdict as unfair.

An ethics panel of eight House peers deliberated over two days before delivering a jarring blow to the Democratic Rep. Charles Rangel's 40-year career. Rangel was charged with 13 counts of financial and fundraising misconduct.

The conviction also was another setback for Democrats who lost control of the House to the Republicans in the Nov. 2 election.

Rangel, a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, is not expected to resign. He is 80 years old and remains a dominant political figure in New York's famed Harlem neighborhood that he represents.

He was banned to step down in March as chair of the committee that oversees tax and trade policy when the House ethics committee, in a separate case, admonished him for taking two Caribbean trips paid for by corporate sponsors.

At his one-day trial on Monday, Rangel was ordered to pleading for a suspension—arguing that his lawyers abandoned him after he paid them some $2 million but could afford no more. The panel refused to grant him one. Rangel walked out of the proceeding.

Rangel vowed bitterly to the committee. He was not present when the verdict was announced.

"How can anyone have confidence in the decision of the ethics subcommittee when I was deprived of due process rights, right to counsel and was not even in the room?" Rangel said in a written statement.

"I can only hope that the full committee will treat me more fairly and take into account my more 40-years of service in the Congress before making any decisions or sanctions."

He called the panel's findings "unprecedented" because there were no rehearsal evidence. The congressional that the rejection of his appeal for more time violated "the basic constitutional right to counsel."

Rangel, echoing a statement he made in August to a speech to the House, added, "any failings in my conduct were due to lack of good faith mistakes" and were caused by "sloppy and careless recordkeeping, but were not criminal or corrupt."

The full ethics committee will now conduct a hearing on the appropriate punishment for Rangel, the silver-haired, gravelly voiced and noticeably fleshy veteran.

Possible sanctions include a House vote deploring Rangel's conduct, a fine and denial of privileges.

The congressional panel, sitting as a jury, found that Rangel had used House stationery and staff to solicit money for a New York college center named after him. It also concluded he solicited donors for the center with invoices before the House ways and means committee, leaving the impression the money could influence official actions.

He also was found guilty of failing to disclose at least $600,000 in assets and income in a series of inaccurate reports to Congress, using a rent-subsidized New York apartment for a campaign office, when it was designated for residential use; and failure to report to the IRS rental income from a housing unit in a Dominican Republic resort. AP

NEW Charles Rangel walks out of House proceedings and vows victory in his conviction by an ethics panel. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

China focuses on fire safety after 79 deaths

SHANGHAI—Tests on entities from a blaze that gutted a high-rise apartment building in China's business capital have confirmed 58 more fatalities, taking the death toll to 70, state media reported on Wednesday. China ordered tighter fire prevention measures following Monday's blaze, and at least one downtown office building announced a full update of the alarm tests that it said were ordered by the fire department. AP

Fresh floods kill 11 in central Vietnam

HANOI—Disaster officials said new flooding and landslides in central Vietnam has killed 11 people, bringing the death toll over the past six weeks to 118. Officials said up to 74 centimeters of rain had pounded the region over the past three days. The region was hammered by three earlier rounds of flooding since early October that killed 107 people. AP

4 Loko alcoholic drink to lose caffeine jolt

WILMINGTON—The manufacturer of popular caffeinated alcohol drink Four Loko on Tuesday said it would remove the caffeine from its products, pulling the blend off the market just as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was poised to ban it. Four Loko said it would remove caffeine and other ingredients from its products giving forward. The FDA was expected to find as early as Wednesday that caffeine is an unsafe food additive in alcoholic drinks. AP

Errors kill 15,000 aged patients a month

WASHINGTON—Patients and unavoidable problems kill an estimated 15,000 elderly US patients every month in hospitals, US government investigators reported on Tuesday. More than 13 percent of patients covered by Medicare, the government health insurance for the elderly, or about 134,000 people monthly have some sort of so-called adverse event each month. These include mistakes such as surgical errors or sometimes unavoidable problems such as an infection spread in the hospital, or patients having their blood sugar fall to unusually low levels. Reuters

Study faults aggressive end-of-life cancer care

WASHINGTON—One third of US patients dying of cancer end up getting costly but futile treatment in hospitals, when hospice care to ease their suffering would be more appropriate, researchers reported on Tuesday. The Dartmouth Atlas, a project that studies and documents variations in medical care across the United States, also found that where a cancer patient's lives may decide the way they die in an emergency room or at home. Reuters

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Edna Caroline D. Daroy

The WORLD

US body scanners touch a raw nerve

NEW YORK—An American traveler who refused to have his groin patted down before boarding a plane has become a folk hero for opponents of full body scanners and other intrusive checks.

Footage of John Tyner's confrontation with a San Diego airport official over the weekend went viral after being posted on YouTube.

"If you touch my junk, I am going to have you arrested," Tyner, 31, [illegible] the Transport Security Administration (TSA) official, in reference to his genitals.

A poll set on Tuesday showed eight of 10 Americans support the full-body X-ray machines being installed across the country to check under passengers' clothes. Under the new rules, those refusing to submit must undergo the kind of extensive hand search that Tyner also declined.

But although American's back tougher screening—especially in the wake of last year's attempt by a passenger to ignite explosives hidden in his underwear—growing numbers worry their rights are being trampled in the process.

So far, 68 US airports have deployed so-called naked scanners. The coming holiday season, starting from Thanksgiving to New Year's, will put those to a crucial test of public opinion.

A WOMAN gets a full-body scan at Washington's Ronald Reagan National Airport. A security measure that a growing number of Americans consider invasive. AFP

Not 'opt-out day'

Already the Internet blogosphere is buzzing with talk of a "national opt-out day" on Nov. 24, the eve of Thanksgiving. Plans would deliberately derail the system by loading on hand searches over scanners.

Another core of opposition has emerged among pilots who fear potential health hazards from being forced repeatedly to pass through the machines.

Robert Thompson, a professor of popular culture at Syracuse University, says society is renewing virgin technological and ethical territory.

"The scanner's ability to penetrate is metaphorically powerful. It's invading privacy in all kinds of new ways," Thompson said.

"Balancing that out, there is the other really basic, powerful argument, which is how you remain safe in the sky in the age of tiny weapons and concealed bombs."

Unlike the "X-ray glasses" sold in joke shops, the new scanners really do see through people's clothes, revealing whether they are carrying any well-hidden object—but also, of course, their privates.

Not convinced

Although the TSA insists the pictures will not make it into the public domain, activists say they are not convinced.

On Sunday, US technology blog Gizmodo published photos of what it said were images of people snapped by a naked scanner at a Florida courthouse.

The scanner in question had a lower resolution than those used in airports, not showing, for example, the outlines of genitalia.

But Gizmodo said the fact those pictures were leaked "silence guarantees that others will be seeing similar images in the future."

Police state

Huffington Post columnist Jay Michaelson railed against the "naturegroup expansions of the police state."

"We have gotten to the point where detailed photos of our genitalia are taken every time we fly home to visit Grandma for Christmas," he wrote. "Or, electronically, as John Tyner learned, you can have a stranger run his or her hands up to your genitals."

TSA Administrator John Pistole is taking to the national media to reassure the hesitant.

He told the New York Times that he understood the controversy but "when somebody gets on a plane, they want to know that everybody else—OK, maybe not themselves but everyone else—has been thoroughly screened."

One thing the TSA may have to adjust is the way it handles alarmed passengers like Tyner.

Dodgy massage

As noted by Daily News columnist Joanna Molloy, the TSA offered to accommodate Tyner sounded like something from a dodgy massage parlor.

"We are going to be doing a groin check. That means I am going to place my hand on your hip, my other hand on your inner thigh. Slowly go up and slide down," the official says in the popular YouTube footage.

After his outburst, Tyner was told to leave the airport and threatened with prosecution.

Bob Hanley, a professor of journalism at Quinnipiac University, said society would just have to get used to the new reality.

"I do think the scanners are going to stay and it's just another indignity that we will put up with when we travel." AFP

A tale of 2 diamond rings

NEW YORK—Minutes after the world first glimpsed the sapphire and diamond engagement ring Prince William gave his fiancee—the same one Princess Diana once wore—photos started ringing madly at a Manhattan jewelry maker.

In website-crashed an enormous newspaper a with, one option: Then the marksman at New York's Natural Sapphire Co. got busy on Tuesday, producing the first of dozens of custom-fit replicas of Kate Middleton's ring.

"I called my wife and said, 'Honey, I'm not coming home tonight'" said Michael Rosenthal, the CEO of the jewelry company his grandfather started in 1919. "We're in a frenzy. This is changing our business overnight."

At about the same time, a rare pink diamond smashed the world record for a jewel at auction in Geneva, selling for more than $46 million to a mystery gem-dealer.

London jeweler Laurence Graff paid $46,158,674, for the 24.78-carat "Tassy-intense pink" diamond, which he immediately named "The Graff Pink."

"It is the most fabulous diamond I've seen in the history of my career and I've looked at and have bought it," Graff said in a statement released by auction house Sotheby's, which delivered the stone at its Geneva sale.

Across America, major jewelry stores also capitalized on interest in calls from clients interested in the brilliant blue gem that suddenly appeared in breaking news stories.

The photos of the sapphire-pressed, boasting Middleton was released Tuesday noon, and within 10 minutes, Nakanishi's computer server crashed. An hour later, it was up and running again. And by late Tuesday afternoon, the company that normally makes five to 10 high-end engagement rings daily, was starting production on about 30—and counting, as calls came in.

In a room filled with computer terminals 20 floors above Fifth Avenue in midtown Manhattan, a half dozen sales people took calls from Britain, Canada, the United States and elsewhere for replicas of the oval, 18-carat sapphire ring set amid diamonds and 18-carat white gold that William's father, Prince Charles, had given to Lady Diana Spencer three decades ago.

"It's the biggest news for our company since Princess Diana received her sapphire," Nakanishi said, adding that other Diana's engagement to Charles, the same ring also went to sporadic for a surge in business.

"Now, it's turned into a legacy," he said.

THE ENGAGEMENT ring (left photo) that Prince William gave his fiancee sparks a frenzy for replicas at a New York jewelry company on Tuesday, as a rare pink diamond (right photo) breaks the world record for a jewel at an auction in Geneva. AFP

The sale price for "The Graff Pink" was almost double the $24.3 million achieved by the blue 10.96-carat Hirshhorn Graff diamond in 2008. That one also bought by Graff.

"This is the highest price ever bid for a jewel at auction," said David Bennett, the head of Sotheby's jewelry division, as the auction room in Geneva's luxury Beau Rivage hotel erupted into applause.

"Everybody was surprised it went that high," Mary-ann Dreyers, a jeweler from Amsterdam, commented after the sale. "He clearly wants to have all the rarest diamonds in the world."

Rich buyers from developing countries have been dipping their hand in the high end of the market in recent years, but experts say emerging, middle-class purchasers in India are doing as much if not more to lift prices. Ongoing doubts about the stock market have also helped drive up the value of gold and precious jewels. AFP

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Editor Raul G. Manalo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

P&G to invest ₱2.5B in PH expansion

Multinational firm to hire 100 people in 2 years

By Abigail L. Ho and Norman Bordadora

PROCTER & GAMBLE, one of the world's biggest consumer goods producers, is investing about P2.5 billion to upgrade and expand its manufacturing facility in Cabuyao, Laguna.

The announcement, aptly timed to coincide with the company's 75th year in the Philippines, was made during P&G's diamond anniversary celebration Tuesday evening.

With the additional investments, the company said it would also be hiring at least 100 people over the next 24 months.

"We are committed to reach and improve Filipino lives, now and for generations to come, and we're investing in our ability to do it. One way is through the expansion of our Cabuyao plant. This is about a ₱2.5-billion investment," said P&G chair, president and chief executive Robert McDonald.

P&G Philippines general manager Srikth Srik added that the planned investments in plant expansion would allow the company to "achieve [its] vision of touching and improving more lives, more completely—not just in the Philippines but in other markets which are served by the Cabuyao plant."

The company's Laguna facility manufactures fabric and home care brands Ariel, Downy, Joy, Mr. Clean and Tide; personal cleaning and skin care products Safeguard; feminine care brand Whisper; and baby care line Pampers.

All of these brands are sold in the local market while some are also sold overseas. P&G exports its Philippine-made Joy to Japan and Pampers and Whisper in various countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

McDonald said P&G's investment in the country would not stop with the planned expansion of its Cabuyao plant. The company would likewise continue to pour funds into employee training and market research.

"We are also committed to continue to develop our Filipino talent. This is imperative to our ability to improve lives not only here in the Philippines but around the world. And we are

P&G, B2

Indicators

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Nov. 17, 2010
43.950

STOCK MARKET
Nov. 17, 2010
70.01

Stocks tumble 1.69%

LOCAL STOCKS tumbled yesterday as an interest rate increase in China and renewed fiscal concerns in Europe spooked global markets.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index shed 70.01 points or 1.69 percent to close at 4,069.33.

The day's downturn was led by the industrial sector, which fell 2.1% percent. All other counters bemoaned losses than a percent. Value turnover amounted to ₱5.1 billion. The market was weighed down by about ₱200 million worth of net foreign selling.

There were at least two stocks that declined for every single one that gained.

Investors sold down shares of PLDT, Metro Pacific Investments, Energy Development Corp., Megaworld, Cebu Air, Ayala's Power, Alliance Global Group, Metrobank, Universal Robina, Ayala, Ayala Land, SM Investments, Meralco, ISM, Filinvest Holding, Banco de Oro, BPI and PNB.

Filinvest Land and San Miguel were among the few that bucked the downtrend.

An overnight bloodbath is

STORIES ON

Forex reserves seen hitting $60B

THE COUNTRY'S reserves of dollars and other foreign currencies could end the year at close to $60 billion, a new record high, fueled mainly by the surge in placements by foreigners in the country's stocks, bonds and other portfolio investment instruments, according to projections of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

It said the country's external liquidity, measured in terms of the gross international reserves (GIR), would continue to go higher even if these have already reached historic highs in the past months.

The [GIR] could reach $60 billion by the end of the year and the projection implies that total [foreign exchange] inflows are seen to continue to come in," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said yesterday in a briefing organized by the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap).

As of end-October, the GIR amounted to $56.35 billion, the highest ever recorded. The central bank said the amount was enough to cover nearly 10 months' worth of the country's imports and was, for the time the country's foreign currency-denominated debts maturing within a year.

The latest level of foreign exchange reserves rivals also will

FINANCE B4

Only 2-3 of PPP projects ready in 2011

By Reena P. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT'S goal of raising infrastructure investments through its public-private partnership (PPP) program, equivalent to 2 percent of the country's total output or ₱180 billion may not be met as only two or three projects are ready for billion-peso plus.

Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad said in an interview that not all of the 10 projects in a short list for bidding in 2011 would be ready for implementation.

"But max, PPP projects can make up [for the shortfall] through the multiplier effect," Abad said, indicating that that other projects could create activities for supporting industries.

Investors from all over the world started arriving yesterday for a two-day conference that starts today, gathering in ventures and regulators to look at investment opportunities and establish business partners and prospects in PPP infrastructure projects in the Philippines.

Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said in a radio inter-

CONT. B2

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ADB warns gov't against move to hike VAT to 15%

By Aurora W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT should not raise the value-added tax to 15 percent as this, along with the corporate income tax being lowered further, would make the Philippine tax system more regressive, according to the Asian Development Bank.

In a policy note on the Philippines, the multilateral lender said the Philippines should rather raise excise taxes on tobacco, alcohol and gasoline to improve its tax effort or collections expressed as a percentage of total output (gross domestic product).

The ADB noted a standing proposal for another increase in the VAT from the current 12 percent and a further lowering of the corporate income tax to 25 percent from 30 percent would not improve the tax effort, which was pegged at 13.8 percent in 2009.

"The overall impact [of this scenario] on the tax effort is reversed," the ADB said. "But if the [corporate income tax] is cut further to 20 percent, the tax effort decreases by -0.6 percentage point."

"Without making a serious effort for tax mobilization, this option cannot create adequate fiscal space for higher public spending on basic public services," the bank added.

The ADB said a better option was to raise the excise taxes on tobacco and alcoholic products as well as on gasoline and diesel.

Years down, the ADB said proponents of such move submitted the importance of better tax administration.

"Proposed key tax administration measures include stronger enforcement by tax authorities...the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs...and rationalization of the tax incentive scheme," the bank said.

The policy paper also mentioned the need for the countries to collection authorities into one institutional agencies, preparation of a clear and updated tax base and development of the capacity of tax officers.

"Any tax reform can then ventures that will enable the public," the ADB said. "The new administration may also wish to ensure to the public its strong political commitment to better public expenditure management to produce visible benefits of tax payments."

Cut in corporate tax to make PH system 'regressive'

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BSP urged to lower interest rates on special deposit account facility

By Michelle K. Barba

THE BUREAU of the Treasury which manages the national government's borrowings, has urged the central bank that's runners against the risks and reduce interest rates.

Lower interest rates paid by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (both for its overnight lending and special deposit account (SDA) facilities) are necessary to have banks re-lend more to the public rather than park their excesses in the central bank's vault, the Treasury said.

The overnight lending and SDA rates are at historic lows of 6% and 4% per annum, respectively. Still, the Treasury said there was much room for the BSP to cut rates.

A ranking Treasury official noted that inflation remained tame before the official ceiling and that any reduction in interest rates were not expected to cause prices to rise sharply.

"Besides, it would benefit them in no sense because they would mean they would spend less [on interest on maturing T-bonds]," Deputy Treasurer Edmundo Mendoza said.

It would also have the national government if the BSP would reduce interest rates because deposit facilities of the BSP do not compared with the treasury bills and bonds being sold by the national government.

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P&G ...

continuing to invest in understanding Filipino consumers to develop insights that lead to big ideas, which become life-improving innovations," he reiterated.

From page B1

He said the manufacturing sector, of which P&G is a part, contributed P65 billion to government revenues as of the second quarter of 2010, or 12 percent over that in the same period last year.

"We look forward to more increased investments from your company in the years to come," President Aquino said.

He also thanked the firm for being one of the most responsible corporate citizens of the country by turning over 200 houses to the Yolanda typhoon.

He said P&G also gave P20 million worth of relief goods to victims of calamities.

The President also invited P&G officials and its design partners to take a look at the public-private partnerships that would be presented today.

From page B1

ding in the conference since feasibility studies on the projects were still under way.

The National Economic and Development Authority has identified for bidding some P370 billion worth of projects.

These included the P79.84-billion MRT/LRT expansion project, the P13.3-billion MRT Line 2 extension; the P7.34-billion new Bohol airport, the P59.84-billion Philippine-Japan expressway, the P21-billion NLEx-SLEx link expressway, the P18.5-billion Cavite-Laguna expressway, Manila-Cavite tollway, and the P3.06-billion Davao International Airport.

Also in the list are the development of a city terminal for the Ilocandia-Muscapagal International Airport, the privatization of Laguindingan Airport operation and maintenance, and the supply of treated bulk water in the Metro Manila, but costs for these have yet to be finalized.

Only 2-3 ...

view that PPP projects would focus on infrastructure that would help the movement of people especially for tourism and of goods to ensure the food supply chain.

The projects include three road projects that would complete a loop of expressways connecting Metro Manila to the Southern Tagalog region.

"These are the Cavite-Laguna Expressway that would link the Coastal Road to the Southern Luzon Expressway [SLEx] in their southern ends and the North-Luzon Expressway that would link the two older toll roads] on their northern ends," Pantoja said.

The finance chief added that a project connecting the SLEx and the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx) would be also up for bidding next year.

Pantoja said at least P100 billion worth of projects were being proposed for the auction.

He said there will be no bid-

OPEN AUCTION OF PRIME PROPERTIES

NOVEMBER 20, 2010 | MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL, MAKATI CITY

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 10:00 AM | AUCTION PROPER STARTS AT 11:00 AM

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STARPROPERTIES invites all interested parties to bid the following properties on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis

LOT NO.	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	LOT AREA (in sqm.) / FLOOR AREA (in sqm.)	MIN. BID PRICE
	QUEZON			
	Residential lots w/ improvements			
	Residential lots w/ improvements			
	Residential vacant lots			
	Commercial vacant lots			
	Residential vacant lots			
	Industrial lots			
	Residential lots w/ improvements			
	Mixed-use lots w/ improvements			
	Residential lots			
	Residential lots w/ improvements			
	Residential lots			
	Residential lots w/ improvements			
	Mixed-use lots			
	Residential lots			
	Residential lots w/ improvements			
	Commercial vacant lots			
	LAGUNA			
	Agricultural vacant lots			
	Agricultural vacant lots			
	Agricultural vacant lots			
	Residential vacant lots			
	Residential vacant lots			
	Residential vacant lots			
	Industrial lots w/ improvements			
	Industrial lots w/ improvements			
	Commercial vacant lots			
	Commercial vacant lots			
	Commercial vacant lots			
	Industrial vacant lots			
	Agricultural vacant lots			
	Industrial vacant lots			
	Mixed-use lot			
	Residential vacant lots			
	Residential vacant lots			
	Agricultural vacant lots			
	Mixed-use vacant lots			

Auction Day: November 20, 2010 | 11:00 a.m., Mandarin Room, 4th Floor, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City, Metro Manila

Bidder Registration: Starts at 10:00 a.m. on Auction Day

Bid Deposit: Bidders must deposit a bid deposit equivalent to 10% of the property's bid price in order to participate in the auction. Bidders who fail to deposit the bid deposit will not be allowed to participate in the auction.

Bid Money: A check in the amount equivalent to 10% of the property's bid price must be submitted before the auction proper. It must be deposited immediately after the auction. In case the party is not the winning bidder, the check will be returned to the bidder.

Property Related Expenses: All applicable taxes and any related expenses (including association dues and real estate taxes) identified and accruing as of November 20, 2010 shall be settled by the bidder as specified in the Auction Rules & Guidelines.

For more information, you may call or email the following:

Viewing: November 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 2010 | 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Bidder's Deposit: Bidders must deposit a bid deposit equivalent to 10% of the property's bid price in order to participate in the auction. Bidders who fail to deposit the bid deposit will not be allowed to participate in the auction. Property owners reserve the right to refuse any bid. Bidders must register at the auction site to be eligible to bid.

OFFICE: UNIT 1-5, G/F, BSB MAKATI PLAZA, 307 EL GRANDE AVE. (F. ZOBEL), BARANGAY OLIMPIA, MAKATI CITY, TEL: 8-CITY (8489) PRES.

Stocks ...

Wall Street spelled the return of bargain hunters. The closely watched Dow Jones tumbled 178.47 points or 1.58 percent.

Narrower skewed score in global markets overnight, with worries over debt problems in Europe intensifying, Ireland has yet to agree to a bailout, while Austria reportedly threatened to block its December transfer of 50 European Union bonds

Forex ...

most equal the country's foreign debt of about $57 billion.

The accumulation of reserves so far this year was attributed to the influx of "hot money" seeking higher returns offered by the BSP as compared banks to place some of their funds to the central bank's deposit facilities instead of investing in government securities.

But Mendoza said that aside from benefiting the national government, lower rates offered by the BSP would encourage banks to lend more to the public.

Funds with the BSP's SDA facility alone already accounted to more than P600 billion, a record high. Auctioned funds were attracted to deposit funds to the virtually risk-free and relatively high-yield BSP facility.

Latest documents showed that bank lending rate so far growing nearly 10 percent this year. Although this was a decent growth, analysts said banks actually had the capacity to lend more.

From page B1

He said the manufacturing sector, of which P&G is a part, contributed P65 billion to government revenues as of the second quarter of 2010, or 12 percent over that in the same period last year.

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Also in the list are the development of a city terminal for the Ilocandia-Muscapagal International Airport, the privatization of Laguindingan Airport operation and maintenance, and the supply of treated bulk water in the Metro Manila, but costs for these have yet to be finalized.

From page B1

because Greece is not meeting tax and deficit targets," said investment bank Credit Agricole CIB.

"While Austria's participation in the EU funds is low, its claims nevertheless opens the door for possible actions from other members and suggests no short-term solution to the fiscal situation of peripherals," the investment bank said. Doris C. Dumlao

From page B1

is in the form of foreign investments in the country's stock market and partly in bonds and bank products. Michelle U. Remo

Pfizer enters generics market; launches branded line for 2011

Affiliate to start production of 9 medicines

By Abigail L. Ho

GLOBAL pharmaceutical giant Pfizer has broken into the generics market by launching a new line of branded generics, which will hit Philippine drugstore shelves by 2011, through affiliate Pfizer Pasbe Inova (PPI).

During yesterday's launch, PPI general manager Roberto Bautista said the company would start with nine branded generic medicines, mostly anti-viral injectable antibiotics or anti-biotics. Also to be offered starting next year are anti-hypertensive and anti-cancer medicines.

"Despite the number of generics medicines in the market, there seems to be a segment for quality products. We intend to change how people look at generics," he said.

He admitted that of total medicine sales in the country, 55 percent were for generic drugs, owing mainly to their lower price tags.

With the launch of PPI's branded generics line, he said the share of generics in the market could expand even more.

By declining to disclose how much lower PPI's initial generic offerings would be priced compared with their branded Pfizer counterparts, or saying only that the nine medicines to be offered next year would be "on par with the prices of generic medicines already in the market."

All of the products under PPI would be produced initially in India, with manufacturers to consider such as Italy and Brazil given to the countries tied for the company's future offerings, he said.

But manufacturers from the Philippines were also welcome, he said, as long as they would be able to meet PPI's quality and price requirements.

"We're considering all possible manufacturing areas all over the world. We're in the meetings with other countries like Italy and Belgium. We're also talking with local manufacturing companies," he said. "The strategy is not to produce our own medicines, but support accredited manufacturers."

Pegaltinol to be launched by PPI in the coming months were branded generics for diabetes, respiratory illnesses such as asthma, neurologic and psychiatric disorders and gastrointestinal diseases.

Officer will be launching similar branded generics lines in 45 other countries and territories apart from the Philippines. The company, however, is the 3rd territory where the new medicines will hit the market.

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100,000 – 999,999	4.50%	4.75%	5.50%	5.75%	6.25%	7.50%
1,000,000-1,999,999	5.00%	5.25%	6.00%	6.50%	6.75%	7.50%
2,000,000-4,999,999	5.00%	5.25%	6.00%	6.50%	6.75%	8.00%
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STARPROPERTIES invites all interested parties to bid the following properties on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis

AUCT. CODE	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	LAND AREA (sqm)	MIN. BID PRICE
		HOUSE		

Auction Day: November 27, 2018, 10:00 AM, Pinya Room, 3rd Floor, Crown Regency Hotel & Towers, Sales - Transfer Taxes, Documentary Stamp Taxes, Other Fees

Other Charges: A bidder interested to bid for any of the property shall be required to pay an amount equivalent to 10% of the maximum bid price of the property shall be required to pay an amount equivalent to 10% of the maximum bid price of the property he intends to bid. The winning bidder of the property shall be required to pay the balance of the purchase price within 30 calendar days from the auction date. In the event the winning bidder fails to pay the balance of the purchase price within the said period, the winning bidder shall forfeit the amount paid in favor of the Seller as liquidated damages.

Property-Related Expenses: All applicable property-related expenses, including association dues and real estate taxes (described and discussed as of November 27, 2018) shall be settled by the Seller, as specified in the Auction Rules & Guidelines.

For more information, you may call or email the following:

Disclaimer:

MANILA OFFICE: UNITS 2-5, 6/F, 888 MERALCO PLAZA, 20TH ST. COR. 4TH AVE., BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY, TAGUIG CITY 1632 PHILS.

BAGUIO OFFICE: UNIT 1C 12TH ST., LEPANTO CORPORATE CENTER, J.P. LAUREL ST., BAGUIO, BAGUIO CITY 2600 PHILS.

OPEN AUCTION of PRIME PROPERTIES

NOVEMBER 30, 2018 | THE APO VIEW HOTEL, DAVAO

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 1:00PM | AUCTION PROPER STARTS AT 1:00PM

* NOW WITH REVISED AUCTION RULES & GUIDELINES *

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STARPROPERTIES invites all interested parties to bid the following properties on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis

AUCT. CODE	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	LAND AREA (sqm)	MIN. BID PRICE
		RESIDENTIAL		

Auction Day: November 30, 2018, 1:00PM, Venue Room, The Apo View Hotel, # 108 J. Camus St., Davao City

Other Charges: A bidder interested to bid for any of the property shall be required to pay an amount equivalent to 10% of the maximum bid price of the property shall be required to pay an amount equivalent to 10% of the maximum bid price of the property he intends to bid. The winning bidder of the property shall be required to pay the balance of the purchase price within 30 calendar days from the auction date. In the event the winning bidder fails to pay the balance of the purchase price within the said period, the winning bidder shall forfeit the amount paid in favor of the Seller as liquidated damages.

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BAGUIO OFFICE: UNIT 1C 12TH ST., LEPANTO CORPORATE CENTER, J.P. LAUREL ST., BAGUIO, BAGUIO CITY 2600 PHILS.

CONTINUED ON B4

Sy's UEM to take over NGCP

By Doris C. Dumlao

MAKATI CITY, Philippines — The eldest son and namesake of the country's wealthiest man, has stepped into a shareswap scheme that shall allow his newly acquired holding firm UEM Development Philippines to take control of 60 percent of privately-owned electricity supplying-arm operated by National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP).

UEM, which shall be renamed Integrity Gold & Development Philippines Inc., plans to issue 1.08 billion common shares at P3.40/per share in exchange for all the outstanding shares of each of Oriental Petroleum and Minerals Corp.'s Cotabato Holdings Inc. and Pueblo21 Holdings Inc. The cost of P3.6 billion worth of shares to be issued shall be treated out of a proposed increase in the authorized capital stock of the holding firm, based on UEM's disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

Oriental Petroleum owns controlling shares in Metro Pac Gold Resources Corp., which holds 30 percent plus one share in NGCP. Pacific01, meanwhile, owns controlling shares in Cobrex High Power Corp. held by businessman Lucio Tan.

Before Corpinio, which in turn owns 10 percent minus one share in the NGCP.

After completing the share swap as described above, UEM will hold a total beneficially own 1.66 percent of the outstanding shares of each of Pueblo21 and Cotabato Holdings, thus paving the way for the backdoor listing of their interest in NGCP.

For his part, Sy is the chairman and director of UEM, holding 47.87 percent of its outstanding capital stock. Sy did not participate in the deliberations and the discussions of the UEM board and abstained in the voting when the board approved the proposed share swap.

At present, UEM is also seeking approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission to amend its primary purpose to include anchoring to engage in power, utilities, infrastructure and related businesses. The company's authorized capital shall also be raised from P60 million to P115 million.

Apart from the creation of 120 new common shares for the share-swap, UEM plans to issue 60 million shares to the public via preferred shares to be sold through a public offering.

"The target offer period of the preferred shares is within the next year. The corporation will use the proceeds of the offering to refinance outstanding group debts and for working capital requirements," the disclosure said.

The share swap will be subject to approval from the SEC while the public offering and listing of preferred shares will be presented during an annual stockholders meeting on May 2013.

Sy in partnership with Cojuangco, is undertaking this large-scale foray into infrastructure outside his family's core interests in retailing, banking as well as shopping mall and property development under SM Investments Corp.

Eventual backdoor listing eyed

Jollibee seals ₱3-B Mang Inasal deal

By Doris C. Dumlao

PASTOSO giant Jollibee Foods Corp. has finalized a deal to buy 70 percent of fast-growing grilled chicken restaurant chain Mang Inasal Philippines Inc. for ₱3 billion.

JFC said on Wednesday it had paid the seller, Ispan Investments Inc., a total of ₱1.35 billion while an additional ₱1.15 shall be paid on Nov. 22, during which the purchase shall be completed. About ₱300 million or 10 percent of the purchase price will be withheld and paid over the next three years to serve as for indemnification against the seller's representations and warranties.

Mang Inasal, which had a total of 312 stores in the country, of which 284 are franchised stores, is expected to end this year with 340 stores. It is ambitious to increase JFC's store network in the Philippines by 30 percent...and worldwide by 16 percent.

In terms of financial contribution, it is estimated to add at least 5 percent to JFC's worldwide sales, 5 percent to total revenues and 7 percent to net operating income attributable to parent equity holders.

"Mang Inasal has successfully grown the grilled chicken in the PI-Quito segment of the fast-food industry. It has been the fastest growing network in the Philippine food service business in the last three years behind very good tasting food, excellent value and brand branding," JFC chair and chief executive officer Tony Tan Caktiong said in a press statement.

"The local cuisine segment of the quick service restaurant has a very significant potential and we look forward to growing Mang Inasal even more to the years ahead by further enhancing its quality and value proposition to the Filipino consumers in the Philippines and abroad," he added.

Ispan Investments chair Edgar Ho Ei, who founded the restaurant chain and will keep a 30-percent stake in the business, said the JFC group would enable Mang Inasal to fast-track its expansion and performance. He said he was looking forward to bringing this brand to 10 spots in the US and other overseas locations as part of the JFC group's global expansion.

"With JFC's scale and resources, Mang Inasal will be able to secure even better store locations, more franchisees, lower cost of raw materials and supplies and better management systems and technology," Ho said.

In terms of valuation, JFC said its purchase price for Mang Inasal was comparable to its previous acquisitions in terms of cash flow and prior to earnings multiple using the shares' estimated recurring profit share in 2012.

JFC, which has grown over the years through a combination of acquisitions and organic expansion, had a total of 1,953 stores worldwide of which 1,319 were in the Philippines as of end-September. The flagship brand is Jollibee with 700 stores.

Manila Water completes sewage treatment facility

ini PHOT of its members to intensify wastewater management in Metro Manila's East Zone, concessionaire Manila Water Co. Inc. has recently completed the East Avenue Sewage Treatment Plant (STP).

Tucked in the bigger Quezon City East Avenue STP is designed to treat as much as 15 million liters of domestic wastewater daily before being discharged to creeks and rivers. With a total investment of P400 million under the World Bank-assisted Manila Third Sewerage Project (MTSP), East Avenue STP is expected to benefit 20,000 residents from Brgy. Central, parts of Project 2, Project 3, Bgy. Pinyahan and Philam's Village, as well as the adjacent Quezon City Hall and Long Center of the Philippines.

East Avenue STP is a product of a multi-sectoral partnership between Manila Water, the Quezon City local government and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, aimed at reviving Metro Manila's waterways, which are now considered biologically dead or unsuitable to marine life.

East Avenue STP is the latest of 15 existing wastewater treatment facilities completed and operated by Manila Water throughout its concession area. Three more STPs are expected to be completed this year under the MTSP program, including Pinklaton STP in Makati, Pasugamos STP in Taguig and Project 6 STP in Quezon City.

As the leading sewerage service provider in the country, Manila Water is on its way to achieving an aggressive and accelerated 100-percent sewerage coverage through its 5-Point Master Plan which targets to ensure the high quality of the effluents it returns in Metro Manila...the Pasig, San Juan and Marikina rivers...and ultimately clean up Manila Bay. Apart from protecting the environment, Manila Water's sewerage efforts also aim to improve sanitation and health conditions in the community and promote urban renewal.

Business Roundup

Atlas 9-mo revenues up sharply

ATLAS Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. more than doubled its consolidated sales for the first nine months of 2012 from last year, driven by the production milestones of subsidiary Carmen Copper Corp. (CCC).

In a report, Atlas said its consolidated sales reached P5.3 billion in the same period last year.

CCC, as the source of the bulk of Atlas' revenue in Cebu, posted revenues amounting to almost P5.08 billion and net income of P568 million as of end-September 2012. **Alan F. Delmendo**

First Gen earnings boosted by units

THE LOPEZ-led First Gen Corp. posted a 40-percent hike in its consolidated net earnings to $104.9 million in the first nine months of the year, boosted largely by robust earnings of its subsidiaries and affiliates.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, First Gen reported that its consolidated revenues also increased by 27 percent to $960.1 million from $711.1 million a year ago. Net income attributable to the parent company shareholds surged by 949 percent to $66.3 million in the same period. **Amy R. Remo**

Alaska beats entire '09 net

ALASKA CEBU Alaska Milk Corp. boosted its sales, income and profit by 47 percent on a year to P1.47 billion on the back of robust demands demand and healthy operating margins.

The nine-month net profit surpassed last year's full-year bottom line level of P1.41 billion.

The company grew its January to September operating income by 61 percent to P1.82 billion from a year ago, net sales rose by 1 per cent due to higher customer spending and post-election optimism.

Notwithstanding the rising cost of key raw materials, the company improved its operating margin to 21.2 percent from 16 percent in the same period last year. **Jovic E. Bonifer**

ATI doubled 9-mo profits

LISTED port giant Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI) doubled its profits in the nine months ending in September, on the back of stronger revenues due to higher cargo volumes and control take on handling rates.

In a disclosure, ATI said profits reached P1.03 billion at the end of the nine-month period, a 100.8-percent increase over P528.8 million last year.

Income from continuing operations reached P1.11 billion during the period. **Paolo E. Montecillo**

Breaktime

From page B3

man is known to have a lucky business charm. Starting with a small round, he parlayed his business into a billion-peso group in hotel, insurance, car dealership, mineral park, publishing and broadcasting.

Anyway, the Bataan Bulalao project is the first real investment of the Cabangan-Chua group, which takes care of the development in a joint venture with the Poyee group. Apart from the real estate boom in that area near and around Tagaytay City, Boni, Silang, Sangley, Cabangan-Chua trust be confident about the first for-

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE
As of November 14, 2012

COMPILED BY: ELLEN VICTORIA, MARIANNE ROBLES

PSEi INDEX

Stock Name	Last Traded Price	Change	Volume
Ayala Land, Inc.	31.00	0.00	1,000
Bank of the Philippine Islands	82.00	0.00	1,000
BDO Unibank, Inc.	68.00	0.00	1,000
Globe Telecom, Inc.	1,500.00	0.00	1,000
International Container Terminal Services, Inc.	68.00	0.00	1,000
JG Summit Holdings, Inc.	68.00	0.00	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corporation	68.00	0.00	1,000
Manila Electric Company	68.00	0.00	1,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.	68.00	0.00	1,000
PLDT, Inc.	68.00	0.00	1,000
San Miguel Corporation	68.00	0.00	1,000
SM Investments Corporation	68.00	0.00	1,000
SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	68.00	0.00	1,000
Universal Robina Corporation	68.00	0.00	1,000

Asia share prices down amid Irish debt worries, China jitters

BANGKOK—Asian stock markets retreated yesterday, extending a global sell-off triggered by Europe's simmering debt crisis and fears Asian nations will raise interest rates again to curb inflation.

Sentiment was cautious as an an unusually awaited meeting of European finance ministers ended without an agreement to bail out debt-stricken Ireland. But European finance officials said they have "intensified" preparations for potential support for the country's troubled banking sector. That gave the euro a modest boost against the dollar after it tumbled to the day before.

Speculation that China will take more steps to rein in its red-hot economy after inflation hit a 25-month high in October also kept Asian markets in check. A state media report of a speech by President Wen Jiabao, the country's top economic official, saying the Cabinet is "doubling measures to suppress sharp rises of commodity prices" added to those expectations.

China's Shanghai Composite Index slid 1.9 percent to 2,888.86, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 1.2 percent to 22,434.04.

Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average bucked the trend, gaining 0.2 percent to 9,811.66 as the dollar rose against the yen, boosting exporters.

Australia's ASX 200 was off 1.6 percent at 4,609.30 while South Korea's Kospi fell 0.1 percent to 1,897.11.

Elsewhere, markets in Taiwan, Thailand and New Zealand fell. Singapore, India, Indonesia and Malaysia were closed for holidays.

Resource companies took a big hit around the region as economically prices fell overnight. Australian miner Rio Tinto Ltd. tumbled 3.2 percent to Sydney while rival BHP Billiton Ltd. fell 2.2 percent.

In New York Tuesday, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 150.87, or 1.6 percent, to 11,005.50. Nine losers were Fannie Mae and Chinese inflation.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 19.41, or 1.6 percent, to 1,178.34, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 41.98, or 1.8 percent, to 2,405.84.

Concerns that Ireland will be unable to pay the cost of rescuing its banks—which ran into trouble when the country's real estate boom collapsed—has worsened Europe's government debt crisis.

Markets have pushed up borrowing costs for other vulnerable nations such as Portugal and Spain and threatened to destabilize the eurozone currency.

In currencies, the dollar rose to 83.44 yen from 83.39 yen late Tuesday in New York. The euro was to $1.3491 from $1.3479.

Benchmark crude for December delivery was down 21 cents at $82.13 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell $1.52, or 2 percent, to settle at $82.34 on Tuesday. AP

US wholesale prices fall, output flat

WASHINGTON—Core US producer prices recorded their largest fall in more than four years in October and industrial output was flat, underlining concerns at the Federal Reserve about low inflation amid moderate growth.

Economists said the data supported the US central bank's Nov. 3 decision to ease monetary policy further even though the 0.6 percent drop in the core Producer Price Index largely reflected the annual introduction of new motor vehicle models.

Stripping out the sharp decline in vehicle prices, core producer prices—which exclude volatile food and energy costs—would have risen by 0.2 percent, the Labor Department said on Tuesday, a modest gain consistent with the economy's sluggish growth trend and tepid domestic demand.

The overall decline in the core index was the biggest since July 2006 and followed a 0.1 percent gain in September. A similar increased had been registered in October.

The weak inflation report ignited a rally in the US government debt market, where the the 10-year bond posted its biggest one-day gain. Ongoing concerns over Ireland's debt crisis and tight credit in China eroded risk appetite.

Concerns that low inflation could spiral into a damaging phase of deflation prompted the US central bank this month to ease monetary policy further, a step that will see it buy $600 billion worth of government bonds through the middle of 2011.

That measure has been criticized by some economists, amid signs that the recovery from the worst economic downturn since the 1930s is regaining some strength after losing momentum in the summer.

A separate report from the Fed showed industrial production was flat last month, short of economists' expectations for a rise of 0.3 percent, largely because of weak utility output that reflected unusually warm weather. But manufacturing output rose 0.5 percent, its biggest gain since July.

"The rise in manufacturing is consistent with other reports we have showing the economy picked up strength at the start of the fourth quarter," said Joe O'Sullivan, chief economist at MF Global in New York. Reuters

Potash sees $2-B buyback after BHP scraps takeover bid

TORONTO/CALGARY—Fertilizer maker Potash Corp., announced on Tuesday plans to launch a stock buyback worth up to $2 billion, after Anglo-Australian miner BHP Billiton scrapped its $39 billion hostile takeover bid.

BHP, the world's largest miner, terminated its unsolicited offer on Sunday, after the bid failed to win clearance from the Canadian government.

Potash Corp., had rejected BHP's $130-a-share offer as "grossly inadequate," sparking the biggest takeover battle of the year.

On Tuesday, shares of the world's largest fertilizer maker closed down 1.5 percent, or $2.64, to $174.63 in New York...the lowest close in the last three months—amid a broader sell-off in commodity stocks.

Potash Corp. shares posted losses in trade after the closing bell, following the announcement of the share buyback.

The company's shares closed at a 52-week high of $183.29 in August on the NYSE.

Analysts charted Potash Corp.'s move, which based on its current share price could result in the company repurchasing roughly 14.3 million shares, or 5 percent of its outstanding free float.

"This gives shareholders that may want to exit the stock, an opportunity to do so," said Mark Cudley an analyst with Scotia Capitalina.

Saskatchewan-based Potash Corp., which is the world's top producer of its namesake crop nutrient, said the buyback program will commence on Nov. 18 and run for a year.

However, the company said it intends to wrap up the share buyback program this year, if market conditions are favorable.

BHP also agreed to review its new $4.2 billion share buyback program on Sunday, after terminating its offer for Potash Corp.

The collapse of the Potash Corp. bid marked the third failed deal for BHP and its Chief Executive Marius Kloppers. BHP was forced to scrap an iron ore joint venture with rival Rio Tinto a month ago after running into competition concerns in Europe, Australia and Asia. It also abandoned a bid takeover of Rio Tinto in 2008. Reuters

Gates pledges $500M toward poor savings

SEATTLE—The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced a $500 million pledge Tuesday to support projects that encourage poor people around the world to save money.

The global health charity announced at a global savings forum in Seattle will more than double what the foundation has previously committed to help the poor make financial plans for the future—to save for everything from fertilizer to school fees and medicine.

"They talk eloquently about how savings can transform their lives," Gates said about the female farmers and small business owners in Africa, Latin America and Asia she has talked to about financial services. "Savings gives them the ability to marshal their resources," she added.

As part of the $500 million pledge, Gates announced a package of six new grants totaling $40 million. The grants will support the foundation's work to bring branchless banking and mobile money and will pay for more research on how people use formal and informal financial tools.

Gates said financial services for the poor are an unusual challenge because it's not just about money. "It's not a resource gap. It's an idea gap," she said.

Transferring money through cell phones, banking kiosks at public markets, and mobile branches driven from one village to the next are among the new ways people around the world are banking without having to enter an actual bank building.

The Gates Foundation, the world's largest charitable foundation, has brought together about 200 bankers, government officials, regulators, telecommunications companies and community organizers from 38 countries in Seattle this week to talk about working together to benefit the poor.

The meeting comes a few days after global leaders meeting in Seoul, South Korea, added financial inclusion to their development priorities.

In a panel discussion, Jessamyn Dewar, head of financial and private sector development for The World Bank, said global economic problems have not slowed demand for financial services.

She called for more research to make sure the poorest people are being reached. But when the audience was asked to vote on what kind of research they would like to see, the majority said they wanted more information on how to make financial services for the poor a profitable enterprise.

This was not a conference dominated by nonprofit organizations, like some foundation events are.

Several also expressed interest in using more inexpensive means to bring banking services to more of the 2.5 billion people in the world who live on less than $2 a day. AP

EU-IMF mission to discuss measures to help Ireland

Banks hit by financial crisis, property woes

HOMELESS people beg for money on O'Connell bridge in central Dublin Nov. 16. Ireland came under intense pressure on Tuesday to request aid over its debt crunch in what the European Council's president called a "survival crisis" for the euro zone and the wider European Union. REUTERS

BRUSSELS—Euro zone ministers have agreed to send a joint European-IMF mission to Ireland that could prepare the way for a bailout to prevent its debt crisis spreading to other countries.

The ministers said after talks on Tuesday that the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank were ready to talks starting this week on helping Ireland's banking sector, if Dublin decides to ask for aid.

However, economists said a euro bailout was a distinct possibility despite the Irish government's decision to resist pressure for an immediate rescue just months after the IMF and the EU stepped in to help rescue a crisis in Greece.

"There is an air of inevitability that there will be some sort of bailout," said Alan McQuaid, chief economist at Riotham Stockbrokers. "Why come to Dublin if you are not going to give a bailout?"

The Irish government hopes to avoid a humiliating rescue that could burden taxpayers to prop up Ireland's banks, which were driven to the brink by the global financial crisis and a property market crash.

The banks have become increasingly reliant on funding from the ECB because other commercial banks have been reluctant to lend to them since the crisis in Greece.

"Any assistance in relation to resolving the problems of the Irish banking system will be most welcome," Irish Finance Minister Brian Lenihan said.

The meeting of euro zone finance ministers, who were joined by the other EU finance ministers in talks in Brussels on Wednesday, echoed a decision to send an EU-IMF-ECB team to Greece as part of Athens' rescue.

"These preparations can ... be regarded as an intensification of a potential programme with an interest on the restructuring of the banking sector, in case a programme is requested and deemed necessary," European Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn said.

Euro zone sources said there was an agreement in principle to trigger aid for Ireland when the joint mission completes its consultations—perhaps in days—and the aid would not be just a program for the banks.

The stakes are high even though other European officials played down a suggestion by European Council President Herman Van Rompuy who heads the body that groups the EU's 27 national governments, that the EU's future could be at stake.

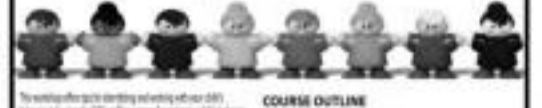
German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she did not believe the crisis-stricken was also Europe.

"But we are experiencing turmoil and situations of the kind I wouldn't have dreamed of a year and a half ago," she told ARD television. Reuters

A seminar for those who love kids!

FIGURING KIDS OUT

Every child has a unique behavior style.
Do you know your child's?



COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction: "Sa Figure!"
Why understand my/the Child? Benefits of understanding children's behaviour style. Discovering what interest you and your/the child in your relationship.

Workshop 1: "Different Kids, Different Strokes"
Reflection on the treasure in your/the child. 8 pieces of the puzzle. Understanding your/the child's puzzling behaviour

Workshop 2: "Fixing the puzzle"
Understanding your own style and its impact on the child. Dealing with the "difficult" child. Celebrating our differences

Workshop 3: Practical approaches to managing kids' diversities: Putting all the pieces together
It all starts with me

Steps in handling our emotions. "Stop Space Response Rules" Matching the child's style and our approaches. Organizing the environment for "Goodness of fit" Helping kids manage their stress and time improving parent-teacher-child relationships. Other points to consider.

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Visit : www.saltandlight.asia

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
BAC Joint Awards Committee
Capitol Area, Bacolod City

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Bids are invited for the Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Two (2) Units Brand New Diesel Engine Driven Fire Pump Set, Complete with Accessories, Spare Parts and Tools, for the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental.

The Provincial Government of Negros Occidental, through the Provincial Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), intends to apply the sum of Two Million Pesos (₱2,000,000.00) being the ABC to payments under the contract for the Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Two (2) Units Brand New Diesel Engine Driven Fire Pump Set, Complete with Accessories, Spare Parts and Tools, for the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

Prospective bidders may obtain further information from the Provincial Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders on November 15, 2010 from the Provincial Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, Provincial Capitol Building, Bacolod City upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the bidding documents in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (₱15,000.00).

The Provincial Government of Negros Occidental will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on November 29, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in the Provincial Bids and Awards Committee Conference Room, Provincial Capitol Building, Capitol Area, Barangay Villamonte, Bacolod City, which shall be open to prospective bidders.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before December 6, 2010, 9:00 a.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on December 6, 2010, 1:30 p.m. at the address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the time and place allowed for the opening of bids.

The Provincial Government of Negros Occidental reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

ATTY. ROMEO M. GUANZON
Provincial Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
Provincial Capitol Building
Capitol Area, Barangay Villamonte
Bacolod City
Tel. No. (034) 433-2401 loc. 3001

(Sgd.) ATTY. ROMEO M. GUANZON
Provincial Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat

(PN: November 15, 2010)

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE MARIANO S. SATOSHIMA WAS EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG HIS HEIRS AS PER DOC. NO. 138 AND DOC. NO. 5, BOOK NO. XXXVIII OF 2010, BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC CONCEPCION M. JUGNAS OF PARAÑAQUE CITY.

(s.) **NINA EASTERN UNIVERSITY**

Certificate No.	No. of Shares	Date Issued
00471	100	10-02-08
00472	100	10-02-08
00473	100	10-02-08
00766	100	11-28-08
00767	100	11-28-08
00768	100	11-28-08
00769	100	11-28-08
00770	100	11-28-08
00771	100	11-28-08
00772	100	11-28-08
00773	100	11-28-08
00774	100	11-28-08
00775	100	11-28-08
00776	100	11-28-08
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00795	100	11-28-08
00796	100	11-28-08
00797	100	11-28-08
00798	100	11-28-08
00799	100	11-28-08
00800	100	11-28-08

(PN: Nov. 11, 18 & 25, 2010)

(s.) **PENN REALTY CORPORATION**
Certificate No. 00 008
dated Nov. 13, 2008

Certificate No.	No. of Shares	Date Issued
00008	1	01-13-09
00009	1	01-13-09
00010	1	01-13-09
00011	1	01-13-09
00012	1	01-13-09
00013	1	01-13-09
00014	1	01-13-09
00015	1	01-13-09
00016	1	01-13-09
00017	1	01-13-09
00018	1	01-13-09
00019	1	01-13-09
00020	1	01-13-09
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00042	1	01-13-09
00043	1	01-13-09
00044	1	01-13-09
00045	1	01-13-09
00046	1	01-13-09
00047	1	01-13-09
00048	1	01-13-09
00049	1	01-13-09
00050	1	01-13-09

(PN: Nov. 11, 18 & 25, 2010)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
REGION III
Government Center, Maimpis, City of San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. No. (045) 455-0773; Fax No. (045) 455-0350
DepED Website - www.deped.ph

DepED

November 9, 2010

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education Regional Office III, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) or list for the following projects at DepED Regional Office III, Government Center, Maimpis, City of San Fernando, Pampanga:

LOT	PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS	CONTRACT DURATION	AMOUNT (Php)
1	Repair/Rehabilitation/ Renovation of Kto L.G. Water System and Toilets	KTO L.G., Poblacion Bulo, Angeles City	CY 2009 MPBF Funds for Regional/ Division Wide	150 CD	1,600,000.00
2	Repair/Rehabilitation/ Renovation or Improvement of Sapalibo N.H.S. - 2 Story Building and Fence Lines	SapNS N.H.S. - Sto. Rosario, Sapalibo, City of San Fernando, Pampanga	CY 2009 MPBF Funds for Regional/ Division Wide	90 CD	1,750,478.08
3	Repair/Rehabilitation/ Renovation of SapES N.H.S. - 6 Classroom Building Phase I	SapES N.H.S. - Brgy. San Vicente, City of San Fernando, Pampanga	CY 2009 MPBF Funds for Regional/ Division Wide	180 CD	3,010,438.08

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract. Have completed a similar contract with value of at least 50% of the ABC; and have key personnel and equipment capability to the satisfaction of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Preliminary Examination of Bids and conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All contractors relative to the Statement and Rendering, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

NO.	BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE	VENUE
1	Advertisement/Publication	Nov. 8-10, 2010	Office of the BAC Secretariat (BFF)
2	Issuance of Bid Documents	Nov. 8 - 30, 2010	BFF
3	Pre-bid Conference	November 11, 2010, 10:00 AM	DepED RO III Conference Hall
4	Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 23, 2010, 10:00 AM	DepED RO III Conference Hall
5	Bid Evaluation	December 1, 2010	
6	Post Qualification	December 2, 2010	
7	Approval of Resolution/Issuance of Notice of Award	December 3, 2010	
8	Contract Preparation and Signing	December 6-7, 2010	
9	Issuance of Notice to Proceed	December 9, 2010	

The BAC will issue or incorporate bidders Bidding Documents in the Regional Project Facilities Unit (RPFU), Health Regional Office III, Government Center, Maimpis, City of San Fernando (P) upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 5,000.00 from the Regional Office Cashier.

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) FEDERICO ANDAYA, JR., Ph.D.
Chief Administrative Officer
BAC Chairman

NOTED:
(Sgd.) TERESA B. VILLANUEVA, CESO III
Director III

(PN: November 15, 2010)

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Notice is hereby given of the loss of PSBA Bank certificate no. 21691 for 500 shares issued to Lucinda L. Bueno and stock certificate no. 01332 for 1,417 shares issued to Francisco S. Bueno. If no claims received new certificates will be issued.

(PN: Nov. 11, 18 & 25, 2010)

COLOR MIX CORP JOINS SUPER BRANDS SUPER SALE

Color Mix Corp presents a fusion of educational and entertaining games and toys as they joined Super Brands Super Sale 20 10. The event is on Dec. 2 to 5 at the Megatrade Hall 3 of SM Megamall. Catch their popular brands like Bop It, Hyper Slide and Monopoly on sale at Super Brands Super Sale! Representing Color Mix Corp is Hazel Ann Jiru. Also shown are Jennine Sy and Christine Sy of Respect WE Trading, a service provider of RedDeerca Inc. For more information on the event, please contact Diana Sy at 09173 dolared, 0933 dolared or send us an email at redevents.ph@gmail.com

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OBITUARIES

So Dearly Loved...
So Fondly Remembered...
So Truly Missed...

In Loving Memory of the First Death Anniversary of

RENATO VICTOR A. EBARLE JR.

May 3, 1982 - November 18, 2009
A victim of a senseless killing at age 27

Masses will be offered on the following:

1. *Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, New Manila, Quezon City* ——— 6pm
2. *St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Quezon City* ——— 6pm
3. *Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish, Philam Homes, Quezon City* ——— 6pm
4. *Hearts of Jesus & Mary, Mirr Triangle, Quezon City* ——— 6pm
5. *Holy Family Parish Church, Kamuning, Quezon City* ——— 6pm
6. *Sto. Niño Cathedral, Pagadian City* ——— 5pm
7. *Redemptorist Church, Cebu City* ——— 5:30pm

We, his loving parents Mr. & Mrs. Renato L. Ebarle Sr. together with his 3 sisters, Irene, Marial, Katrina and relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"to you I shall both lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord make me secure" — Psalm 4:9

DR. MAXIMINO D. JUAN

November 18, 1910 - August 21, 1978

Father of the Philippine Jeep
Founder, M.D. Juan Enterprises Inc.

In celebration of his 100th birth anniversary, masses will be offered today, November 18, 2010 in the following churches:

- Imus Cathedral, Imus Cavite | 6:00 am
- Presentation of the Lord Jesus, Pk III BF Homes, Parañaque | 6:00 am
- Most Holy Rosary Parish, Rosario Cavite | 6:15 am
- Resurrection of Our Lord Parish, Pk 1 BF Homes, Parañaque | 6:15 am
- St. Peter and John Parish, Pateros, Makabar | 6:30 am
- Don Bosco Church, Makati City | 7:00 am
- Santuario de San Antonio, McKinley Rd, Makati | 7:30 am

The family requests the prayers reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Atty. Amado R. Fojas

of Tanza, Cavite and Pasig City

April 7, 1933 - November 17, 2010

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment shall be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City on Sunday, November 21, 2010.

The family is requesting for your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Death Notice

Rosario Madrigal-Dizon

(a Nurse and a Loving Grandma) of San Jose, Camarines Sur

Died last November 15, 2010 at the age 107. Her remains lie in state at her residence in 166 Real St. San Jose, Camarines Sur.

Interment will on Saturday, Nov 20, 2010, at 9AM at the San Jose Catholic Cemetery, San Jose, Camarines Sur.

"I search passionately for the Lord. All carnival is in vain and tomorrow (as for) the end of all the days of my life and all that exists. For on my throne do I rule and glory as a king (also) is mine!" — Ecclesiastes

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In memory with a prayer can be a loving tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER Thursday NATIONAL

CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P75 per line
DEADLINES
For reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Saturday 12:00 noon
Day before publication
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2010
B7

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 851 Muñoz St.,
Quezon City, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Nationality	Position
GLOBAL PAYMENTS PROCESS CENTER INC. 7/F Robinsons Cybergate Plaza, Pioneer St. cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City	Samar Mohamed Nael / Egyptian	Director - Call Center Ops
HILADA PLASTIC CORP. #15 Hidalgo St., Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City	Hwaan Hueng Chi / Chinese	Marketing Supervisor
IBM BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 12/F Yuchengco Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Nicolas Lyons / Australian	Sys Architect Operations Officer
INCOPLASH & SPECIALTIES (PHIL), INC. L.2.04-1, Tycoon Center Bldg., Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Rangkuman Ken / Korean	Assistant Manager
KIM SANG SUNG CHOA ED (GAMING) CENTER, INC. #126 Aguinaldo Ave., AF Homes, Parañaque City	Mihyeong Jeong / Korean	Consultant
KAO-CHI RESTAURANT #126-G E. Mitchell Ave., Marikina, Quezon City	Chingsheng Lin / Chinese	Chef
KAO-CHI RESTAURANT #126-G E. Mitchell Ave., Marikina, Quezon City	Chiehao Sun / Chinese	Chef
KAO-CHI RESTAURANT #126-G E. Mitchell Ave., Marikina, Quezon City	Huacheng Mo / Chinese	Chef
KAO-CHI RESTAURANT #126-G E. Mitchell Ave., Marikina, Quezon City	Lan Liu / Chinese	Chef
SHARAZ TRADING CORP. R2361 Loob St., Brgy. Bool, Manila	Mandip Rao / Indian	Purchasing Manager
SELL'S GOLF SARANGKAE TRAVEL, INC. LHDF GLZ Bldg., #400 TM Kalaw St. cor. H. Ubaldo, Ermita, Manila	Gyungsook Kim / Korean	Marketing Executive
SELL'S GOLF SARANGKAE TRAVEL, INC. LHDF GLZ Bldg., #400 TM Kalaw St. cor. H. Ubaldo, Ermita, Manila	Jeoffrey Joaquin Gong Mo Hyung / Australian	Manager
SELL'S GOLF SARANGKAE TRAVEL, INC. LHDF GLZ Bldg., #400 T. M. Kalaw St. cor. H. Ubaldo, Ermita, Manila	In Seon Hwang / Australian	Marketing Manager
SONGDO RESORT CORPORATION #230 Gen. Malvar St., Manila, Manila	Seongjoon Cho / Korean	General Manager
SPE WORLDWIDE CORP. #236 Dizon Mineria St., Paco De Roxas, Valenzuela City	Ting Lun Patrick Ch / British	General Manager
SEJONG HOUSE OF KOREAN PRODUCTS, INC. 2/F #1001 Jaga-Soosho St., Ermita, Manila	Dongyong Jin (a/k/a Jin Yong) / Korean	Purchasing Manager
SEJONG HOUSE OF KOREAN PRODUCTS, INC. 2/F #1001 Jaga-Soosho St., Brgy. 659, Zone 070, Ermita, Manila	Myungjin Yoo / Korean	Sales and Customer Care Manager

MORNING STAR TOUR PLANNERS INC. #4 Unity Bldg., #1600-1 Recoletos St., Ermita, Manila	Jocelyn Hong / Chinese	Marketing Consultant
SUJEEBA SOFT LABORATORY CORPORATION Via Chun Lee, Bldg., Lot 10 #1 West Drive, Laguna Blvd Annex, Laguna Boulevard, Sucat, Muntinlupa City	Mi Ran Lee (a/k/a Kelly) / Korean	Consultant
JSC PHILIPPINES, INC. #2104 Pintos St., Muntinlupa Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Kazuo Maeno / Japanese	Tajuana Office Project Coll. Manager
MEGAWHALLEY PHILIPPINES INC. 19 Yuchengco Ctr., EDSA Highway, Mandaluyong City	Hong Tao / Chinese	Customer Service Executive - Multilingual
JABLESYS PHILIPPINES, INC. #103 United Nations Ave., Manila	Grace Mallo-Nuno / Kenyan	HR Business Partner
JABLESYS PHILIPPINES, INC. #103 United Nations Ave., Manila	Adam Bruce Walker / Australian	Sr. BS Process Business Partner
ZHEJIANG GROUP CO., LTD. PHILIPPINE BRANCH Unit 14F Wuyi-ng Mayaha Bldg., 1184 A. Arnaiz Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Shucheng Si / Chinese	Authorized Representative
KAZAKHSON TRADING CORP. #2170-A Zaragoza St., Manila, Manila	Gurmukam Singh Shaliwal / Indian	Assistant Manager
CRI INTL. PLACEMENT AGENCY, INC. Rm. 2101-C G. Ramos Bldg., 1901 F. Ortigas, Pasig City, Manila	Jocelyne Nacino-Bryan / Irish	Board of Director
KAMA-MUT MERCHANDISING CORP. #22 Mandalay St., San Juan, Metropolitan City	Tarsem Kaur / Indian	Consultant
APPLIED OUTSOURCING INC. 2/F Raffles Corporate Bldg., F. Ortigas Jr. Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Shaun William Serafica / American	Chief Operations Officer
IBM BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 12/F Yuchengco Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jolico / Indonesian	Sports Desk Operations Officer
IBM BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 12/F Yuchengco Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hun Sung Kim / Malaysian	Sports Desk Operations Officer
VIV GLOBAL WELDING S.V. (PHILIPPINES) Jurisa Trade Center, EDSA Congressional Avenue, Quezon City	Cheng Yuan / Chinese	TIG Engineer
YAM PAY INC. 2/F Old Plaza, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City	Lanjiyang Wang / Korean	Customer Service Assistant Supervisor
KITANOO, INC. 2/F The Enterprise Center, Tower 1, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Widiastuti Fatimah / Indonesian	Executive Consultant
APPLIED OUTSOURCING INC. 2/F Raffles Corporate Bldg., F. Ortigas Jr. Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	James Edward Maxwell / American	President and CEO

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned applications, please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
Regional Director

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL
Bids and Awards Committee
Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO BID

For Various Healthcare Kit Sets and Other Pharmacy Portion of the Provincial Health Office of Negros Oriental (Bid No. 7-05-2010)

1. The Provincial Government of Negros Oriental, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), intends to apply the sum of Two Million Seven Hundred Sixty Thousand Pesos (₱2,760,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for "Various Healthcare Kit Sets and Other Pharmacy Portion of the Provincial Health Office of Negros Oriental" (this) received on various dates of 2010 from the Provincial Treasurer's Office.
2. The Provincial Government of Negros Oriental now invites bids for "Various Healthcare Kit Sets and Other Pharmacy Portion of the Provincial Health Office of Negros Oriental". Delivery of Goods is required within 30 calendar days from receipt of Purchase Order/Notice to Proceed. Bidders should have completed, within the last three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The Bidder must have taken part in at least one (1) contract similar to the Project. The Bidder must be registered and licensed to participate in the Bidding in the country's jurisdiction of Bidder's nationality/citizenship.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
4. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 as amended by RA 5525.
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat, Provincial Government of Negros Oriental and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday to Friday).
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of ₱ 5,000.00 and submission of the following documentary requirements:
   a. ₱ 5,000.00 – Pay corresponding fee in the amount of ₱5,000.00
   b. ₱ 5,000.00 – Pay corresponding fee in the amount of ₱5,000.00
   c. ₱ 5,000.00 – Pay corresponding fee in the amount of ₱5,000.00
7. The Provincial Government of Negros Oriental will open the bids in the Conference Room of the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, Provincial Government of Negros Oriental, Capitol Building, Dumaguete City, on November 23, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in the presence of the bidders who have chosen to attend the activity.
8. All opening shall be at December 6, 2010, 9:00 a.m. in the morning in the BAC Secretariat Room, Capitol Building, Dumaguete City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's duly authorized representatives who choose to attend the activity.
9. The Provincial Government of Negros Oriental reserves the right to reject any bid, to declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability, and to waive any defect in any bid.
10. For further information, please refer to:

Jose C. Lozada
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
2/F Provincial Legal Services Office
Provincial Capitol Premises, Capitol Area
Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental
Telefax No. (035) 225-4411
Website: www.negros-or.gov.ph

Atty. LEVY BENEDICT P. GALANGGANG
BAC Chairman

(PS – November 18, 2010)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation

INVITATION TO BID FOR ONE (1) LOT 3-YEAR JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR PAGCOR ANGELES UNDER ITB-NO. 10-03-2010-(NB)

Sealed bids are invited for the 3-year janitorial services for PAGCOR Angeles under ITB-No. 10-03-2010-(NB).

Technical Description:	SERVICES OF JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR PAGCOR ANGELES
Contract Duration (Approved Budget amount):	3 YEARS Annual - Php 1,200,000.00 Total Amount - Php 3,600,000.00
Source of Fund:	Internally Funded
Venue:	PAGCOR Angeles

The bidding is open to registered and pre-registered suppliers of PAGCOR pursuant to the pre-registration guidelines stipulated in the Revised Guidelines on Accreditation of Suppliers, Contractors and Consultants (RGASCC) of PAGCOR.

Bidders should have completed, within the last three (3) years before the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The Bidder must have taken part in at least one (1) contract similar to the Project, successfully or substantially satisfactory, the supply of janitorial services as per the Philippine Government Procurement Reform Act (RA 9184).

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 as amended by RA 5525.

All participants shall be subject to Eligibility Screening and Screening Bidding Conference. Submission of Bids, Opening of Bids and Evaluation of Bids shall be conducted as per the guidelines provided in RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of activities is hereto stipulated:

Activities	Schedule
1. Eligibility Screening	November 19 - December 3, 2010
2. Pre-Bid Conference	December 03, 2010, Wednesday (2:00 pm)
3. Submission of Bids / Opening of Bids	December 8, 2010, Wednesday (10:00 am)

Complete bidding documents are available for the (3) months which will be available to prospective bidders from December 3, 2010 to December 8, 2010 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ₱5,000.00 (Five Thousand Pesos) per bidder, upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (₱15,000.00) per bidder. A copy may be purchased by interested bidders from the address given below upon payment of ₱5,000.00 (Five Thousand Pesos) per set of bidding documents. Bidders shall submit their bids through the prescribed bidding forms and shall be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a manager's check, cashier's check, bank guarantee, or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable bank, or a cash deposit in the amount of two percent (2%) of the ABC. Bidding documents will be available at the PAGCOR Angeles Office, Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila, John de Piko cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Malate, Manila or PAGCOR Angeles, Archbishop Reyes Avenue, Balibago, Angeles City, Pampanga.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any bid, to declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability, and to waive any defect in any bid. Bidders shall submit their bids through the prescribed bidding forms and shall be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a manager's check, cashier's check, bank guarantee, or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable bank, or a cash deposit in the amount of two percent (2%) of the ABC. Bidding documents will be available at the PAGCOR Angeles Office, Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila, John de Piko cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Malate, Manila or PAGCOR Angeles, Archbishop Reyes Avenue, Balibago, Angeles City, Pampanga.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any bid, to declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability, and to waive any defect in any bid.

For more information, please refer to the BAC Secretariat, PAGCOR Angeles, Archbishop Reyes Avenue, Balibago, Angeles City or tel. no. (045) 625-0111 local 5001.

(SGD.) ATTY. ANTONIO ANTAS DE LA CRUZ
BAC Chairman, PAGCOR Angeles

(PS – November 18, 2010)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Unit 1, Agoo Road, Sevilla Norte, City of San Fernando (La Union)

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE COMPLETION OF UNFINISHED ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATION BUILDING OF DA-RFU 1

The DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE-REGIONAL FIELD UNIT 1 intends to apply the sum of ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (₱1,775,000.00) being the ABC to payments under the contract for the COMPLETION OF UNFINISHED ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATION BUILDING OF DA-RFU 1 / ALL-PURPOSE BUILDING. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE-REGIONAL FIELD UNIT 1 now invites bids for the COMPLETION OF UNFINISHED ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATION BUILDING OF DA-RFU 1 / ALL-PURPOSE BUILDING.

Completion of the Project is required within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days. Bidders should have completed, within the last three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The Bidder must have taken part in at least one (1) contract similar to the Project, successfully or substantially satisfactory, the supply of janitorial services as per the Philippine Government Procurement Reform Act (RA 9184).

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 as amended by RA 5525.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat, Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Unit 1, Agoo Road, Sevilla Norte, City of San Fernando (La Union) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday to Friday).

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of ₱ 5,000.00 and submission of the following documentary requirements:

a. ₱ 5,000.00 – Pay corresponding fee in the amount of ₱5,000.00
b. ₱ 5,000.00 – Pay corresponding fee in the amount of ₱5,000.00
c. ₱ 5,000.00 – Pay corresponding fee in the amount of ₱5,000.00

The Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Unit 1 will hold a Bidders' Conference on November 23, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the RFU 1 Conference Room, Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Unit 1, Agoo Road, Sevilla Norte, City of San Fernando (La Union) which shall be open to prospective bidders. Attendance of the prospective bidders is not mandatory.

All opening shall be at December 6, 2010, 9:00 a.m. in the morning in the BAC Secretariat Room, Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Unit 1, Agoo Road, Sevilla Norte, City of San Fernando (La Union). Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's duly authorized representatives who choose to attend the activity.

The Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Unit 1 reserves the right to reject any bid, to declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability, and to waive any defect in any bid.

For more information, please refer to:

Atty. ANTONIO ANTAS DE LA CRUZ
BAC Chairman, PAGCOR Angeles

(PS – November 18, 2010)

ILOILO II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Pototan, Iloilo

INVITATION TO BID

ILOILO II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. invites all interested parties to join the public bidding of the following items listed below:

Bid No.	DESCRIPTION	SCHEDULE OF BIDDING
1	Transformers, Poles (Wood & Steel), Wires and Hardwares	December 6, 2010, 1:30 p.m. (LEC) 3rd Floor Room, Brgy. Tabuc-tabuc, Pototan, Iloilo
2	Wires and Battery	December 13, 2010, 1:30 p.m. (LEC) 3rd Floor Room, Brgy. Tabuc-tabuc, Pototan, Iloilo

Bid documents may be obtained from the Secretariat of the Committee upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 for Item 1 and P1,500.00 for Item 2. For more information please contact telephone no. (033) 5190614 (033) 5190691 (033) 5190693.

ILECO II MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE REQUIRED FORMALITY THEREIN AND ACCEPTS BIDS ONLY DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO ILECO II'S ONE.

(Sgd.) JOSE RICHMOND ERIC S. ROQUIOR
General Manager

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AIRLIFT ASIA INC SOARS ON ITS 30TH YEAR IN THE FREIGHT FORWARDING BUSINESS

Now on its 30th year of service, Airlift Asia Inc (AAI) is a leading force in the Philippine freight forwarding industry, despite the presence and dominance of giant foreign multinational competitors.

It is the leading seamless logistics solutions provider in the country; a world-class player with a global network of airline and shipping line partners, international and domestic agents, and trucking and hauling service suppliers.

AAI is the flagship company of a large group of affiliates that specialize in the whole spectrum of logistics services: air import and export forwarding, domestic forwarding, sea freight forwarding, brokerage, warehousing and distribution, project cargoes, crating, hauling and rigging, and business process outsourcing for logistics companies.

In the first quarter of 2008, AAI made history when it became the first freight forwarding and logistics company to receive the 2007 Philippine Quality Award (PQA) Level 1 Recognition for "Commitment to Quality Management" from former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo – the highest level of national recognition for performance excellence that a Philippine company can receive.

In the same year, AAI was confirmed as the "Best Cargo Forwarder for 2008" in the 8th Global Cargo Carriers Inc.'s Industry Awards, sweeping all four major awards in the Platinum category namely: "Best in" Airfreight Management, Information Technology and Communications Infrastructure, Logistics and Warehousing Management, and Transport Network and Equipment Management. These are just a few of the many Kudos AAI has reached in terms of performance excellence.

AAI maintains strong, worldwide business connections as part of various trade bodies and organizations such as the World Air Cargo Organization (WACO), Air Cargo Forwarders Association Inc. (AFFI), the Philippine International Sea Freight Association (PISFA), the Semiconductor / Electronics Industry of the Philippines Inc. (SEIPI), among others.

As a CAB-certified International and Domestic freight forwarder and duly-accredited forwarder of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), AAI holds office in Parañaque City, close to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Its Cebu City branch office has handled the requirements of its Visayas and Mindanao customers since 1982, and its growth during the past two decades saw the establishment of satellite offices in Dumaguete City, Cavite, Calamba, Laguna, Clark, Pampanga, Subic, Olongapo City, and South San Francisco, U.S.A.

Through these offices and its affiliates, AAI serves its customers located within the export processing zones, most of which are semiconductor and electronic firms.

Equipped with ISO9001: 2008 Certification, AAI has consistently delivered top quality and world-class services to its stakeholders. The company has always ranked among the top performing logistics solutions providers in the Philippines since its inception in 1981.

As it enters its fourth decade of operations, AAI will continue to strive for excellence relying on its core values of: *Customer Focus, Excellence Through Teamwork, Frugality, Integrity, Respect for the Individual, Optimism, and Social Responsibility (CEFIRIOS)* and is bent on *Rising to the challenge of the next generation through Innovation and Performance Excellence*. Indeed, AAI is HIPE @ 30.

AAI office in Manila & employees

AAI office in Cebu

AAI Warehouse

"Strong Momma" Recipient of Philippine Quality Award (PQA) Networking, February 2008

AAI Group of Companies

AAI continues to grow together with the affiliate companies offering bundled products to complete the total logistics chain. Under the management of AAI Holdings Inc., the following are members of the AAI Group of Companies:

- AAIR Asia Inc. – the flagship company, with related to Marine Cebu and satellite offices in Cavite, Clark, Subic, Laguna and SFO, USA.
- AAI Logistics Inc. – located in Mactan (Cebu) with a branch in Manila, Cebu, a PEZA-registered company offering third party logistics or value managed inventory, a harmonized GTI service provider specifically to PEZA companies.
- AAI Multitrade Pte Inc. – catering to the logistics manpower requirements of customers specifically, for warehouse management.
- AAI Travel & Tours – established to primarily service the travel requirements of AAI customers.

To strengthen the logistics services capability, joint venture companies were established with AAI Holdings Inc to strengthen the logistics service capabilities:

- AAI Freightmovers Worldwide Inc (AAIFWW) – established in 2007, this company works with the best shipping lines and agents worldwide, specializing in shipping and freight forwarding. A joint venture with Freightmovers Worldwide Inc.
- AAI Peers Inc. – a strategic alliance with Peers Cargo Movers Inc., this company specializes in packing, crating, equipment rigging, moving, and installation.
- NNR Global Logistics Philippines, Inc., – partnership with NNR Global Logistics, a Japanese based company belonging to the top 20 forwarders in the world. With the presence of NNR offices in several major cities worldwide, AAI can be at par with MNCs bringing world-class quality service to its customers.

AAI employees within the vicinity of Laguna Airport Compound, CAVITE, Subic, Clark, Cebu, Manila, Pampanga, Olongapo City, Dumaguete City, Davao, Tacloban, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga, Butuan, Tagum, Koronadal, General Santos City, CAMP AGUINALDO where the G.H.Q. (Philippine Armed) has assigned the coordination of the entire project to AAI

Chairman's Message

Chairman & President
Dr. Rex T. Bonoan

In thirty years AAIR Asia Inc (AAI) has evolved from an ordinary international air freight forwarder – simply moving general cargo by air into a full service logistics provider handling both internationally and domestically traded goods. We now have the capability to manage the multimodal delivery, including inventory of our client's supplies and finish products. And we do our business well. The excellence of our service was recognized and awarded the Philippine Quality Award (PQA) in 2008. We are the only logistics company to have won such a prestigious award.

At this memorable occasion of AAI's 30th anniversary, I would like to thank the following people and institutions for their unwavering trust and support through all these years: our management team and our entire work staff – past and present; our carrier partners on land, air and sea, our global agents, our trade suppliers, our bankers, our consultants, our friends, colleagues, and associates in the industry, our society-conscious CSR partners, and more especially to our valued customers. If not for you, we will not be where we are today.

The next 30 years will be led by the next generation of leaders. We will be handing over to them an outstanding company providing excellent services to satisfied clients. Their challenge is to build it into a smarter company dedicated to offer the best international and domestic logistics services.

Congratulations to all and "Mabuhay!"

CONGRATULATIONS FROM:

NNR Global Logistics
Wishes to congratulate
Airlift Asia, Inc.
on its 30th Year Anniversary
At the Manila Management Executive Office

NNR Global Logistics | Philippines |, Inc.
Congratulates
Airlift Asia, Inc.
on their 30th Year Anniversary

AAI + PEERS
Member of AAI Group of Companies

GERRI'S ELECTRICAL TRADING & SERVICES
#4044-B Champaca Street
Marianar Village, San Valley
Parañaque City
Telefax No. (02) 707-3084
Cellphone No. (0917) 974-3129

AAI Freightmovers Worldwide Inc.

J. ALEXANDER (Phils.), Inc.

www.airliftasia.inc.com

AIRLIFT ASIA INC

LIFESTYLE Food

Good old dependable raisin bread

Baguio Country Club still has the delicious come-ons

Shoyu Torigara Ramen

DINING OUT

RAMEN Bar features the Shoyu Torigara Ramen, a soy-infused serving of healthful and tasty Ramen with real Japanese flavors. Included in the big bowl serving is a soft-boiled egg marinated for 48 hours (Tonkotsu), sliced pork (Chashu) and braised pork belly (Kakuni). The bowl is topped with nori, fish sticks and spring onions. Ramen Bar is at G/F Eastwood Mall, Eastwood City. Tel. 5738457.

Grilled T-Bone Steak in Wild Mushroom Red Wine Sauce

The City Garden Hotel Makati offers affordable room rates. For P1,450+ per person, on a twin sharing basis, family can enjoy the weekend with tasty food, and lucrative rooms including the use of the hotel's amenities. It also offers Chef's Specials of only P488+ at Le Jardin Restaurant. Dishes include Cream of Asset of Palm Soup, your choice between Grilled T-Bone steak in Wild Mushroom Red Wine Sauce served with Potato Risottes or Okay-broiled Red Snapper Fillet in Pineapple-Coriander Beurre Blanc served with Spinach Risottto. The hotel's November plan of the month is Bloody Sensation, P248+, that comes with a souvenir coffee mug. Call 8881111.

Oysters, roussels

Chef de Cuisine Emily Chan makes waves with a bountiful shellfish offering at U.U. Hyatt Hotel and Casino this November. In dulge in the naturally sweet flavors of sea's treasures—oysters, mussels, and jumbo and tiger shrimp. Diners can choose to enjoy shellfish fresh with just a hint of lemon, steamed and served with supreme soya sauce or black bean sauce, or baked with ginger and spring onions, or in Bouillon. As an added treat, guests who dine on weekends will receive complimentary passes to the Club Oasis outdoor swimming pool. Call 5478660 or 240 0334 local 7393.

GRILLED MILKFISH BELLY
Fish Out of Water by Red Crab, in U.L. Greenbelt 3, Makati, offers Grilled Milkfish Belly, among seafood dishes. It also accepts catering. Call 7292454.

PASTA MODELIS
This November, the Bellevue Hotel's Poolside, tel. 7716441, features different pasta noodles like Rigatoni, Angel Hair, Fusilli and Spaghetti creamed with special flavorful toppings such as Wild Mushrooms, Chicken Basil Bolognese, Salmon Pistou, Garlic Spinach or Beef Salpicao.

CRAB TOWER
Crustacea offers Crab Tower for only P 1,200. Other bestsellers are the Crab Martinez, Crab Szechuan, Thai Spring Rolls with Shrimps, Seafood Roll, Shortcake Dumplings and Baked Mussels with Mango Shallots. Available for catering. Crustacea is in Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati. Call 7195461.

ROAST Turkey

Hotel's Thanksgiving selections

MANDARIN Oriental, Manila has prepared a grand dinner for the Thanksgiving holiday on Nov. 28.

For first courses, executive chef Rene Ordik and his team of master chefs are creating a tempting selection of culinary treats. The Tivoli, the hotel's signature fine dining restaurant, offers a five-course set menu starting with an appetizer of Alaskan King Crab, sweet chorizo, candied tomato and long pepper crackler followed by Turnip and Lobster Soup, and Scallop, Seared, octopus just melt-in-your-barbados.

A Tenderwest chocolate slumber completes the palate for the highlight of the meal, a traditional tableside carving of Roasted Turkey, complete with a cranberry-cardamom stuffing, apple sauce, apple-Belgian malter sugars and baked sweet potatoes.

A slice of Caramelized Pumpkin Pie, topped with Bourbon ice cream and pecan nuts, caps off the premier meal. The Tivoli's set menu is priced at P2,490+. Reservations are recommended.

"The Thanksgiving holiday celebrates a bountiful harvest," notes Executive Chef Rene Ordik. "At Prime One, we commemorate this with a buffet that's filled with the freshest and specialties, the perennial favorite duck foie gras, and of course, the traditional turkey carving."

Prime One's buffet with a festive Pumpkin Pie and Pecan Pie, two traditional Thanksgiving sweets. Prime One's Thanksgiving buffet is priced at P1,990 net.

For those who wish to celebrate the Thanksgiving at home, the Mandarin Deli offers roasted turkey with stuffing, gravy and all the condiments at P9501+ per kilo. Pecan Pies and Pumpkin pies are also available at P1,350 nets. Orders must be placed at least 48 hours in advance.

Call 750 8888 or e-mail mosml.th@mohg.com.

STARBUCKS Coffee Philippines 2015 Planner

Limited-edition planner back

THE LIMITED EDITION Starbucks Coffee Philippines 2015 Planner returns this yuletide season.

This year's planner will be available in three cover variants with each cover representing elements found in Starbucks stores. Siren Maureen Nebrel Tabio, Good Clean Stockholm Stand and Stained Dark Wood Stands.

The 14-month planner, extending from December 2014 to January 2016, highlights 34 Starbucks stores for its uniqueness and relevance to the community.

Starbucks customers can get the Starbucks Christmas Kraft-tone planner promo card at the beginning of the Starbucks Christmas on Nov. 5. One stick-er will be given for each Starbucks beverage purchased. It only takes 17 stickers to bring home the planner.

Participating card is annual-ble store vouchers from the Christmas beverage reviewing favorites: Peppermint Mocha, Praline Mocha and Toffee Nut Latte, plus eight stickers for non-handcrafted beverages.

Purchase the Starbucks HA Ready Brew (Java-pack bundles) can also earn customers one sticker, while the Starbucks HA Ready Brew box of 12 will earn customers three stickers.

Not only do Starbucks customers get to carve a limited-edition Starbucks 2015 Planner, every redemption comes with a donation to Sparkleups, Starbucks flagship program for early childhood care and development, in partnership with Unicef.

Fastfood chain sports new service attitude

KFC Market Market in Taguig

KFC Philippines is upgraded version of its Bucket Attitude store at Market! Market, at The Fort in Taguig.

After the launch of its first concept store at the SM Mall of Asia, KFC's second Bucket Attitude store takes up the new service system that complements KFC's new look and technological innovations.

The KFC Bucket Attitude is all about the chain aiming for a younger and bolder vibe. The Fun Friends's walls are in signature red, dotted with collage-style artwork and murals depicting the local Fort area. The store's seating and design elements form sleek geometric lines.

To complement the young atmosphere, KFC introduces a new service system that promises to serve customers faster, more efficiently. The first KFC restaurant in the Philippines and the world to boast of the new system, it separates the order and pick up areas, which is traditionally together in most fastfood establishments.

The new system amplifies convenience and lessen unnecessary waiting time. Customers place their orders at the counter area and are given a number.

They proceed to the pick up area where an LCD screen will display their order when it becomes available. With the use of technology and a more efficient back of the house team, customers can get their food conveniently, whether small or big orders.

While waiting for the food or while enjoying dining in with family or friends, customers can also take their pictures at the photo booth near the pick up area. The LCD TV placed in the dining area loops the photos they have captured in the photo booth for everyone's enjoyment.

There is also free WLAN for making updates on your Facebook and Twitter accounts. Charging stations are also available.

Call 5702626 ext 63.

Good old dependable raisin bread

FOODIES GATHERED recently at the Baguio Country Club for a culinary event. In the itinerary were trips to food establishments in the City of Pines.

We were hosted in a hotel where there was talk about paranormal activity in the corridors and rooms. I always find humor in such situations. Not sure if it was the ghosts, I kept waking the group—who, as it turned out, had the last laugh. I ended up getting scared myself and sleeping with the lights on.

Dreams outside the hotel were in our restaurants. We dined in a new one, the Hill Station at Casa Vallejo, where our host is famous chicken.

Another evening, we were treated in a different must-visit restaurant, Rose Bowl, beside Burnham Park. We were served a different, delicious Italian dinner, but I would have preferred the other comfort dishes I grew up enjoying, such as Cantonese Wiltmelo, Sweet and Sour Pork, Tacos Cantos, Fresh Baguio veggies and fried rice.

Rose Bowl will serve as Instagrammable Baguio hop.

Every morning, we would have breakfast buffet. Baguio Country Club is famous for its raisin bread. That was the first time I got to sample their bakery's Raisin Bread.

It reminded me of the cheese bread. The one has the same texture as the raisin one, but topped with melted and toasted cheese.

In one of the hotel rounds, we were served snacks and I also discovered they also make moist Chocolate Chunk cookies. These are not those gigantic cookies but practically melt in your mouth.

What I would not go home without is its Oatmeal with Blueberry cookies. I just had to bring some home as my mom could try them. These are large-sized cookies that are moist, the blend of oatmeal and blueberry is simply perfect. They are not only healthy, they will also make you more in satisfaction. I wanted to take the whole plate to my room.

We attended a huge culinary event among hotels and restaurants from all around the country. Having been away for almost 10 years, I was surprised at how the standards of the entries had gone up—even in the student category.

The event was a collaboration between Myrna Legaspi-Ando and the general manager of Baguio Country Club, Anthony de Leon, whose club bagged many cooking awards. It goes without saying that the food at the dinner was great.

Some worth trying at the Raisin Bread Bakery are: Michaelangelo cake, oatmeal cookies with blueberry, Chocolate Chunk cookies (the large ones), banana bread, cheese bread and, of course, the raisin bread.

While there we took too-fat-for-good-feels. Try going back to the good old dependables like the raisin bread of Baguio Country Club.

(Happy eating)

Raisin Bread Bakery, Baguio Country Club 9619874/9191850

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

Limited-edition ice-cream concoctions for the holidays

BASKIN-ROBBINS presents cheers with a limited-edition Merry and Take Away special this season.

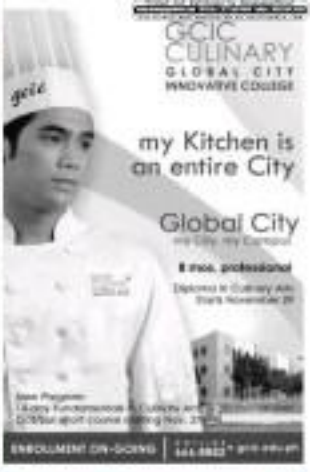
Its Winter Festive combines 20 tasty scoops of White Chocolate and Raspberry Sensa Tea, Strawberry Chocolate, and Cookies and Cream ice cream, topped with fruits in syrup and Christmas pastries of marble cake, coffee almond cake and pie-crust cookie, all to be dipped in white-chocolate and milk-chocolate sauces.

There's also Wishing Tree, a stack of Monchichis Hot Fantastic and scoops of Chocolate, White Chocolate and Raspberry ice creams, and Raspberry sorbet enstamped in tree-shaped genoise biscuits selected with chocolate sauce, cup or dust and gold baubles.

The Vanilla Twice Lots Kamsa Dolce de Leche and Vanilla ice cream, blended with fresh milk and a shot of espresso, topped with whipped cream and drizzled with chocolate sauce.

Every P1,000 purchase of Haagen-Dazs products with at least one Christmas creation gets customers a free Haagen-Dazs 2011 calendar.

The full Christmas Limited Edition Merry and Take Away specials are available at Haagen-Dazs branches at the 2nd Level, Mega Mall of the SM Mall of Asia, (632) 556-2343; 2nd Level, Mega Atrium, Megamall Complex, Ortigas Center, (632) 638-2071; and at the Ground Floor, Midtown Wing, Robinsons Place Ermita, (632) 332-2972.



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A tasting journey through France's 12 regions

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

HERO FROM the 12 regions of France and their complementary wines! The idea was delectable and as untiring as the Incredible Invitation, the 5th Fromm Steel and Wine Festival, potek seemed in a hurry to see for themselves if the promise would be fulfilled behind the closed doors of the Hyatten Ballroom, Peninsula Manila.

But the doors didn't open right away to give time for people to sign up and for them to be fully relaxed about wines.

To demonstrate terroir, the combination of soil, climate and grape variety, there were two bottles of the same variety but grown in different areas.

For the temperature, there were wines at room temperature and chilled both red and white.

And for "nose," samples of aroma were on the table where wine descriptions based on smell could be confirmed by choosing from the samples.

So there was a lot of inhaling and tasting, but just a little of sipping, though, because behind those doors there were so many wines to be imbibed.

At last the doors opened and all the buffet tables occupied the sides of the big hall. Ferocious model stars anywhere which made the tasting manageable for the big group that day.

All the regional exhibit had appetizers, but food, cheese and desserts, and each had a wine to go with it. Quite helpful was that the wines were numbered so that you didn't have to remember the cuisine right away but just tell your group, "the No. 5 is excellent," as everyone had an easy reference. Helpful, too, were the numbers who manned the tables and who could tell you which wines go with which dish.

To travel from one region to the next would just have because the stomach until someone reminds. And then the wines also add to the volume.

There should be a spell for breathing and recuperating. It's great that this year, there were tables and chairs instead of just the cocktail tables. The last get tired standing around for some hours.

If one had the space in their evening bags or the men in their pocket trousers, it's best to go through the regions with wine-tasting notes on hand.

For instance, in the Bordeaux region, the pave de rumpagnac had Chateau Fellas 2005, a deep red that should ride up with heavy meat like steak, lamb chops and duck, according to the notes.

In the same region, there was grilled beef with lentil-lime sauce to be taken with a le Chevalier 2005, an even deeper red.

I suppose that will do for now, serious oenophiles. But for someone who just wants to enjoy the evening, the tasting is less involved but not less entertained.

Quick survey

A quick survey of the exhibit is the first step so you know what's being offered. You'd have to start with something light then proceed to the more hefty offerings.

That means beginning with appetizers, proceeding to the main courses, grilled or with sauces, to the cheese and then to the desserts.

Oh sometimes, we would go back to appetizers again when someone ooohed and aaahed about what was being tasted at the moment.

Or go to desserts. Separating the main courses first because it was pronounced outstanding.

Or go back to a light white even while enjoying a hefty red because someone said it was worth doing so.

The Peninsula chefs responsible for going through the 12 regions are Frenchmen—executive chef Freddy Schmidt and pastry chef Stanislaw Gacquery Bronsel.

They seemed to enjoy showing the guests that wearing the vanity offered by each region. Chef Bernard even placed a chocolate dessert on my plate in case I forget that it's one of the best in the region's repertoire—mmmm!

While there were familiar dishes like the rillettes and last table, the entire quiche with bacon and the pissaladiere tart, it was wonderful to be introduced to many new ones. And the cheeses were excellent.

While the company at our table was entertainment enough, it was also great to play a bit of trivia that evening where the winner gets to travel to France for free. (I didn't win, account.)

And as our table was photographer Sid Cabuhat who exhibited his photographs during his last visit there with Sommelier Selection owner, Jennie Philippus. It takes wine, food and people to make this trip to regional France quite enjoyable.

E-mail the author at pinoydrinkthink@yahoo.com

FISH & CO. Chicken Breast Al Pesto with pasta, shrimps and broccoli

Now, not only fish—also meat

By Irene C. Perez

PERFECTLY COOKED fish and chips are good and filling. But there are times you just have to give in to that craving for another steak. So Fish & Co. restaurant has come up with much more to make everyone happy.

"Diners go in us for seafood, and now we also serve meats. The 'Co.' in Fish & Co. now refers to meat," says Lisa Bongolan, marketing manager of Bistro Group of Restaurants, which brought the Fish & Co. franchise to the Philippines from Singapore.

The expansion is meant to give more choices to dinners and even to entice people who don't like fish to dine in.

Fish & Co.'s revamped menu now has the "Three's Silton to One Name" page, which lists new meat items, and a "surf and turf" combo for those who want a bite of seafood and beef in one plate.

Lamb chops

Among the new selections are the Garlic Steak and Shrimps Combo—pan-fried US rib-eye steak and shrimps with sautéed rice, sautéed mushrooms and olives, and Grilled Lamb Chops topped with lemon jus sauce and mango salsa served with seafood or plain rice on the side. Both are tender, have grill marks and don't have a strong aftertaste.

"Most of the items are grilled because, since it is meat, we want to make it healthier," explains Lilet Bautista, operations director of Bistro Group. Its other restaurants are Italian-style Pedro's, Tex Ferlers, BBQ Rock, Pinoy-palm and Pig Out in Newsk, Laguna.).

Chicken lovers can try the Breaded Chicken Piggyback—breaded chicken breast with creamy mushroom sauce and mozzarella on pasta.

The new items complement Fish & Co. favorites like The Best Fish & Chips in Town—breaded whole fish fillet deep-fried until crisp and golden, drizzled with lemon-butter sauce, and served with a wedge of lemon and creamy tartar dip.

Bestsellers

For new diners or those who haven't visited in a while, from quiche supports the following chowder, New England Clam Chowder soup, Soft-shell Crab Salad, Baked Oyster with Spinach and Cheese or Baked Mozzella in Garlic-Lemon Butter Sauce, and Calamari-rice starters.

Fullest varia Seafood Pasta with Crab Sauce—spaghetti in creamy crab aligue sauce with mussels and prawns; Fish Burger, a less salted alternative to ground-beef burger; and Seafood Pizza, which has a flaky crust, cheesy sauce, and toppings of mozzarella cheese, squid, mussel and prawn bits.

Aside from its bright, friendly interiors, Fish & Co.'s crowdpleasers have a small playpen for toddlers who are given a quiz page and coupons as they wait. Fish & Co. is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays, and midnight on weekends.

Fish & Co. has an ongoing "Unlimited Fish and Chips" promo all month. Monday-Thursday at Greenbelt 3, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and at Shangri-La 5 p.m. until closing.

Fish & Co is at Greenbelt 3, Makati. Tel. 75-7499 302; Shangri-La Mall, Mdl. (914) 2340-402; and Mall of Asia (556-606-820). Promo P99-2020 and 950-9950; and Alabang Town Center (850-1010 or 2470).

Visit www.fish-co.com.ph www.facebook.com/fishandco

Garlic Steak & Shrimp Combo

3 tbsp olive oil
1 pc button mushroom
½ pc black olives
½ slice anchovies
2 tsp white wine
1 sprig rosemary
Salt and pepper, to taste
150 g seafood mix
½ pc arugula leaves
Steak:
1 pc, 7-oz rib eye steak
1 tbsp vegetable oil
1 tbsp garlic, minced
Salt and pepper to taste
Shrimp:
1 pc shrimp, heads removed
1 tsp olive oil
1 tsp garlic, minced
Juice from 1 wedge lemon
Salt and pepper to taste

Marinate meat and shrimp in different containers. Pour olive oil in pan (medium heat), put the meat and evenly sear on both sides. Add mushroom, black olives, Garlic. On the same pan, add chopped anchovies and shrimp, pour white wine and simmer. Squeeze in the lemon juice, season with salt and pepper (optional). Cook steak until medium done. Do not burn garlic. Put in plate, place shrimps and mushrooms on the side. Drizzle excess infused garlic on top. Serve hot with sautéed rice and arugula leaves.

Grilled Lamb Chops

3 pc (250 g) lamb chop
1½ tsp salt
2 tsp lemon juice
1 tsp chili spice
½ cup mango salsa
Chopped parsley
Marinate lamb chops in lemon juice, corn oil and spices in cups for at least 24 hours. Lightly season the marinated lamb chop with chili spice. Render (melt down) the fat side of the lamb on the flat grill for around 2 minutes. Remove from the flat grill, then render to the other side each side for 3 minutes. Make sure to form diamond marks on both sides of the meat. Transfer to a plate with sautéed rice and veggies. Pour in lemon juice sauce and put mango salsa over the meat. Garnish with chopped parsley. Serve immediately.

GRILLED Lamb Chops

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The products are evidently cutting-edge and first-rate, but it doesn't stop there. In its promise to "find better ways", Häfele will continue to manufacture only the best products and constantly forge partnership with brands that adhere to the same standards.

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CHEESECAKE Caesar Salad for sharing

CHARBROILED Angus Beef Burger

CHOCOLATE Molten Almond Torte

Burgers, pasta, Shrimp Fussili —extra-large dishes at regular prices

There are also oversized fruit shakes and smoothies and unlimited soda

By Margie Baga-Reyes

IS 1?1E mood for something big, filling and truly satisfying? More like oversized pasta, salad, burger and fries?

Ongoing until Nov 30, Ascott Makati's Loft on the 6th is serving extra-large dishes at their regular à la carte price that can be enjoyed by the whole family, barkada or those simply with huge appetites. Completing the whopping experience are oversized fruit shakes and smoothies and unlimited soda.

Each serving of refreshing Caesar Salad and Buco Bolognese is good enough for three to four people to enjoy. The Charbroiled Burger offers 100-percent certified angus beef weighing at least 200 grams per serving, accompanied with a hefty serving of fries.

"We also have a good line of wines to go with the food in case they want to have a fine dining feel to their meal," says Susan Salcedo, Ascott Makati's lifestyle manager.

The oversized beef burger goes well with Artadeo Tempranillo, a red wine with depth, body and pronounced flavors, while the trio of thin-bread pizzas with three choices of toppings — prawn and onions, smoked salmon and capers, and chorizo, crisp bacon and Indian salami—blends perfectly each velvety smooth Monte Chardonnay, which comes in pale yellow with aromas of apple, peach and tropical fruits.

Sous chef Orlando Montano has also dished out spicy Shrimp Fussili tossed in pesto, chili and fresh tomato that is surprisingly tame better with Monte Syrah, a quite rich and intense cherry red with blackberry flavors and a smooth long aftertaste.

24-hour food outlet

Loft on the 6th is the only 24-hour food outlet in Ascott Makati, a luxurious serviced residence in the heart of Makati City's prime business and shopping district. Yes, if you're still clueless and or a lost where the hotel is, it's just next to the fashionable Glorietta shopping malls. It's formerly called Oakwood, until it became Ascott Makati in 2006.

SPICY Shrimp Fussili tossed in pesto, chili and fresh tomatoes

ASCOTT Makati offers a wide selection of red and white wines.

TRUFFLE Chocolate Cake

"Call us the 6th is not a food restaurant," says Salcedo. "We want to position ourselves simply as a restaurant, where you can dine anytime at reasonable prices. We admit its exit looks intimidating and exclusive, but it's not. We are very everyday meals."

The serviced residence offers the elegance, comfort and privacy of a privileged private home. It includes guests with discreet services and facilities where one can truly relax and recharge.

"The strength of Ascott and our core business is in our rooms and the facilities," adds Joanne Gomez, Ascott Makati director of sales and marketing. "But we would like to let the people know we also have good food."

Café on the 6th (tel. 7500000) is also an excellent place to spend a few quiet hours, drinking coffee and chatting with friends. Whether for a family get-together, business power lunch or special occasions, the restaurant also offer prime steaks, juicy barbeque ribs, seafood and chicken concoctions, as well as gourmet sandwiches and chef-prepared daily and seasonal specialties.

Happy hour

Apart from the oversized food promo, diners will enjoy the restaurant's Happy Hour from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., offering one serving of appetizer with unlimited popcorn or chips, corn and vegetable crudites, fruit-infused local beer and cocktails and unlimited house-wine are available.

The restaurant also offers mid-afternoon treats that go nicely with a cup of coffee or iced chai tea. Enjoy Open-faced Pork Barbeque Toast, slow-roasted pork loin then braised with homemade barbeque sauce served on sour dough; Chicken and Vegetable Calzone, half-moon-shaped stuffed pizza with fillings of roasted chicken, tomato sauce, vegetables and mozzarella cheese; and Cheese and Egg Sandwich, egg and cheese sandwich with tomatoes and iceberg lettuce with aioli dressing.

ORLANDO Montano, Ascott Makati sous chef

FLAT Bread Pizza with Smoked Salmon and Capers

FLAT Bread Pizza with Chorizo, Crisp Bacon and Indian Salami

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Blue crabs—sweeter and more delicate—are the stars here

CHORIZO Pamodoro

No bouillon cubes or prepackaged sauces and dips at Blackwood Bistro

By Joseph G. Cortes
Contributor

WHEN IT comes to seafood, mud crabs (alimango) take precedence over blue crabs (alimasag). The choice is obvious: Mud crabs are bigger and have more meat in them.

But Chef Joachim de Ocampo, chef and part owner of Blackwood Bistro at The Venice Piazza on McKinley Hill, prefers to serve blue crabs in his restaurant because it has a sweeter and more delicate flavor than mud crabs.

"I've always believed we should take advantage of the seafood that we have in the country," says De Ocampo. "The Philippines is surrounded by water, and there's a variety of fish and seafood we can serve in restaurants. That's why I decided to focus on blue crabs instead. People don't appreciate them as much as mud crabs, simply because they are not often served in restaurants."

And that's what he did at Blackwood. He has come up with a variety of ways to serve blue crabs and a host of other seafood that highlight their natural flavor. And De Ocampo has educated clientele in the kitchen, his bouillon cubes or prepackaged sauces and dips here. Even the pasta is made fresh. Everything is made from scratch.

At the restaurant belongs to an order of spiced lamb shanks, De Ocampo is quick to stress that the lamb was braised the right way: slow-cooked for four hours. Indeed, what you get is fall-off-the-bone lamb that has emotional many customers to come back for more. The emphasis is on natural flavors and simple platings that present the dishes in their best.

After the acacia

Blackwood Bistro is named after the acacia tree, blackwood being its more popular name in Africa and Australia. Much like the blackwood trees, Dr. Ocampo and his business partner Nick Gonzales and Bobby Edwards have been partners in finding the right concept for their restaurant.

De Ocampo has worked with a number of culinary establishments, but he has always wanted to open a restaurant that would highlight his talent as a chef. Although Blackwood is, more than just a month old, it has been enjoying steady business. On some nights, the restaurant is brimming with guests, but bad for a restaurant that sits just 70 diners at a time.

The atmosphere at the restaurant is laid-back and cozy. The blue lights at the bar area resemble a flame of water, as is this restored dental floor tables that restaurants stand out from other establishments at The Venice Piazza.

De Ocampo says they intentionally did not fill the indoor dining area with loud music to give guests a chance to talk. And you can take your time here. Service isn't instant since this is not a fast-food restaurant. All dishes that come out of the kitchen mean have the chef's approval, or else they are not served.

The surprise at Blackwood Bistro starts with Buffalo Crab Claws. The crab claws may seem puny but they are made with blue crab claws. Smeared till done and smeared with the original spicy Buffalo sauce, they are the morsels to whet your appetite. And yes, it comes with the de rigueur celery sticks, blue cheese sauce and more Buffalo sauce.

CAPRESE Salad

Seafood platter

If seafood is your thing, you shouldn't skip on the Blackwood Iced Seafood Platter. Chef Joachim says he was aiming for "wow" appeal with this dish, and he delivers. A stainless steel bowl is filled to the brim with crushed ice, on it, fresh oysters, steamed blue crab claws, shrimp and mussels, clams, seaweed on lots, and ceviche are arranged artfully.

It comes with a selection of sauces and lemon wedges. Dont anywhere, pick anything, and satisfy your craving for seafood.

If you love oysters, Baked Oysters are a good choice. Each piece of oyster is topped with creamed bacon and spinach, spiced bell, hazelnut sauce and dusted before being baked to a crisp. Try and swallow an oyster with just one gulp for a mouthful of heaven.

The chef options the traditional Caprese Salad by substituting tomato pesto for the usual balsamic-olive oil dressing. Layers of arugula and salad greens are topped with fresh mozzarella and dusted with the tomato pesto, which gives it a sweeter taste than usual.

There's also a salad of greens, cherry tomatoes, chopped strawberry and mango cubes, flaked cashmere with a light pesto sauce. This is a filling salad for lunch. The fruit pieces contrast nicely with the crab meat for a refreshingly healthy bite.

If you feel you've been disenchanted at other restaurants when you order Clam Chowder, fear not at Blackwood, the chowder comes with generous bits of clam and tart just potatoes. The creamy soup that comes with it is rich in clam flavor.

Then there's Blackwood Seafood Bowl, a hearty mix of clams and prawn in one bowl. And it isn't just a tomato broth that goes with this soup. It is rarely-scented with lemon grass and orange zest.

FROM top: Buffalo Crab Claws and Blackwood Seafood Bowl

Light entrées

For those looking for a light entrée, there are a variety of pasta dishes to choose from. Smoked Hamlet comes with saffron butter sauce. The ravioli are stuffed with shrimp and salmon, which is already a palate pleaser, but it is the sauce that gives this dish oomph.

On the other hand, Chorizo Pomodoro pasta is a variation on the standard Bolognese sauce, with the chorizo adding a moreish spicy tang to the sauce.

If you want more crab, Crab Cakes Benedict are made without mistakes. The crab patties are hearty, and when you slice into them, you see nothing but crab. They are served with light breading and deep-fried until a nice golden brown. They are served with poached egg and hollandaise sauce (hollandaise, which is the beautiful part of the dish, while the patties rest on a base of creamed spinach. The sibling of hamlets rests is a pleasure addition to this dish.

Spiced Lamb Shanks come with sauce of tomato and red wine reduction. Never have we tried lamb this tender. The Middle Eastern spice mix Chef Joachim uses adds just a hint of heat to the dish. Ultimately, you get your lamb sense but without the gamy taste that puts off some diners from trying lamb.

Make sure to leave room for dessert. If you can't make up your mind what to order, choose from either Strawberry Fields, a sampler of fresh strawberries, Dominican cheese, golden whipped cream and balsamic syrup; or Chocolate for the Curious, a selection of warm brownie, mocha crème brûlée and dark chocolate ice cream.

Either way, both are perfect ways to end a mid-lunch. Just order a cup of espresso and you'll know you dined on a fabulous meal.

Blackwood Bistro is at The Venice Piazza, McKinley Hill, Taguig City.

BLACKWOOD Bistro serves food washed the all-natural way in charming interiors that let you linger to enjoy your meal.

Recipes from Blackwood Bistro

Blackwood Seafood Stew

Makes two cups.

For the broth:
2 tbsp olive oil
2 tsp garlic, minced or roasted
1 tbsp Spanish chorizo, minced
2 tbsp red onion
1 kaffir lime leaf, shredded
1 x shrimp stock
1 x fish stock
2 tbsp tomatoes, diced
2 tbsp red peppers, roasted and diced

For the seafood:
6 clams
2 prawns
100 g fish fillet, diced
2 tbsp crab meat

For the finish:
Sauté the garlic and chorizo in olive oil. Do not brown the garlic.
Deglaze the pan with red wine.
Add the kaffir lime leaf, shrimp and fish stock, tomatoes and red pepper.
Simmer for two minutes.

For the seafood:
Add the seafood to the simmering broth.
Cook for two minutes or until the prawns are done.
Garnish with chopped flat-leaf parsley.
Serve hot.

Paolo's Beef Stew

For five servings
4 tbsp olive oil
4 tbsp butter
1 x white onion, sliced
½ x carrot, diced
½ x celery, diced
4 tbsp tomato paste
1 tbsp Spanish paprika
½ tsp cayenne powder
1 x red wine
1½ litres beef stock
1 tbsp thyme, dried
1 lb beef shin (chuck), cut into one-inch cubes

Sauté onions in olive oil and butter until lightly caramelized.
Add carrots and celery. Sauté for another three minutes.
Add tomato paste, paprika and cayenne powder. Cook for a minute.
Deglaze the pan with red wine. Reduce the liquid to half.
Add beef stock, thyme and beef cubes. Simmer the stew for three hours or until fork-tender.
Thicken the sauce with roux or cornstarch slurry, if desired.
Serve with crusty baguette or whipped potatoes.

2010 best Philippine restaurants' guide now off the press

CASUPREME! Snack-ers have crispy but non-greasy skin, and juicy and succulent but lean meat! Where do you go in Manila when you want hearty and unpretentious French onion soup and pan-seared duck liver that is worth each and every calorie?

The answers are in "Philippines' Best Restaurants 2010," which has over 200 pages of restaurant reviews, coupons and articles by noted food and wine writers. The guide is sponsored by American Express Select.

The Select program offers American Express Card members savings of up to 50 percent off and special privileges when they charge their meals at restaurants participating in the Select program.

At Lili, Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila's 5th-floor Chinese restaurant manned by Fay master chefs from Hong Kong, a healthier version of enticing dishes is on the delicious menu of more traditional and gourmet cuisine, according to a brief review in the book.

Classic French food is likewise available in Cailloux at Shantaria High Street in Taguig. The place gives the feel of a genuine Paris bistro with its burgundy palette, chalkboard menus and memorable foie gras.

Both restaurants are American Express Select partners and offer card members privileges such as 15-percent savings on food and beverage at Lili and chocolate eclair to end a meal of at least P1,500 at Cailloux.

Produced by Philippine Tatler, the book covers 145 restaurants with each rated for its setting, food, wine and service. The reviews are by 16 foodies topbilled by Chad Illovia, food and beverage instructor at Fedrico Colleges who has served as food and beverage manager of Hotel InterContinental Manila and Kilos Shangri-La; Rebecca Hsieh, food blogger and restaurant consultant and one of the youngest regional chef of Fraiteves Fondebrider Asia, Africa and the Middle East; Olga Ilarraza who heads Hotel Heritage Asia Pacific Philippines, a position that gives her the chance to experience the latest restaurants and bars wherever her travels take her.

"Philippines' Best Restaurants 2010" includes maps of most of the featured restaurants, telephone numbers as well as a listing of over 141 restaurants. It is especially useful because it also lists the signature dishes of each restaurant, the establishment's cuisine and hours and website.

For more information on American Express Cards and the Select program, call the 24-hour customer service hotline at 91-417.

LIFESTYLE Food

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LUGANG Café dim sum kitchen

Plump, juicy, 'kung pao' prawns, fantastic pork 'asado' and real crispy chicken

We discovered old-time Taiwanese and Cantonese favorites

WHY PAY

KITCHEN RESCUE

Maggie Aspiras

LUNCH WITH my group of parents at Xavier School is slowly turning into a gastronomy experience.

And today, I left the newly opened Lugang Café along Connecticut Xavier, Greenhills, not just satisfied, but also with an impression of what to try the next time I visit.

Lugang is to a league of its own—its interiors are stylish, its setting comfortable, its menu one of a kind.

The café's lady manager escorts you to your table, hands you the menus—the lunch you two, one for food and another for drinks and dessert.

Five restaurants could boast of separate menus, each with its own story, both exciting, making the customer deeply anguished to choose at all.

Menu-browsing becomes a happy experience—the dishes are mostly old-time favorites, cooked and presented Lugang-style.

I was already happily distracted as a waitress walked past me bearing a tray filled with a foot-high tower of shaved ice. It looked so interesting!

We must try that towering concoction, we made a mental note, and so was everything else that passed me by. There was just so much eye candy in this restaurant.

I asked Kit Chua what Lugang was all about. He said, "Lugang got its name from a popular Taiwanese folk song in the '50s, 'Lu Gang Xiao Zhen,' which musicalizes about a town with no main lights.

"Our offerings are authentic Taiwanese and Cantonese specialties. Our master of chefs ensures that every dish is authentic, while our ingredients are imported from China and Taiwan. We also offer delectable desserts that will surely pave sweet tastes."

Luckily, I was with a big group that got to try many delicious dishes.

For starters, the pork xiao long bao is good—theirs is the Taiwanese version. The wrapper is well done, nice, thin and as you bite into it, the "juice" oozes out. You dump the soup out of the bao, with gusto.

The pork asado is fantastic and so is the crispy chicken... the skin is seasoned beautifully, absolutely crunchy and the meat very flavorful.

The kung pao prawns are a must-try— sweet, spicy, tart, all in perfect balance. The prawns must have been cooked at perfect temperature, leaving them plump and juicy.

Another favorite was the three-cup chicken—so called because of the equal proportions: one cup each of soy sauce, rice wine and sesame oil in the sauce. The dish was essential, made aromatic with the addition of basil leaves.

But the dish I liked most was the whole head of mapa-enjoy fish: meat here weighed almost a kilo, split in the middle, steamed and topped with delicious black bean, chili and garlic sauce.

It is so, so good, light and delicate. Every ingredient that went into the sauce did justice to the fish head. The chili wasn't spicy, just spiced right to give the dish a light kick.

The golden fried rice with shredded pork is really tasty, with bursts of saltiness.

There's an interesting assortment of congee (crab rice and sweet potato), tofu, vegetable and noodle dishes that we wanted so badly to try but could no longer since we wanted to leave room for dessert.

The black sesame and peanut shaved ice was my favorite. The peanut variant was fantastic. This dizzy of sweetened iced peanut cream melts in your mouth. Our a cold delicacy Chua-Wu), paired with black sesame shaved ice to tone down its richness. (When you order this dessert, ask them to give you more peanut than sesame.)

We also tried the Bellagio—a tower of shaved ice, nearly like Angkong, with all sorts of beans, others, sago mixed, to be shared and enjoyed by all.

Lugang Café has sweet and sour pork on the menu, spicy pig's ears and liver... Just to show you, this restaurant is for everyone...for those who eat lavishly, provided they all take their food seriously.

Café Lugang Café at 7215900 or 5709811.

For my holiday cooking class schedules, call (0917.5545700; 09662372266), 4008896, 9209299.

E-mail the author at reggie@inquirer.com.ph

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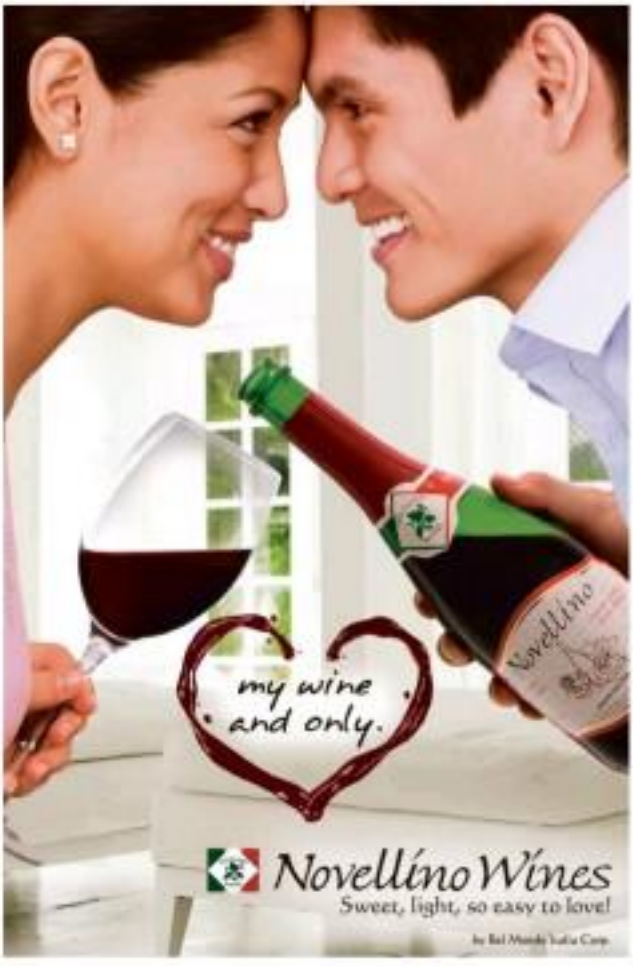

"Tis the season to be jolly!

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Salcedo

Residential

Dasmariñas Village

2D-09
Lot 17 Blk 14 Alba Annex
Magallanes Village, Makati City
LA 140 sqm Php 80,000

2D-10
Lot 17 Blk 14 Alba Annex
Magallanes Village, Makati City
LA 140 sqm Php 84,000

2D-11
Along Arnaiz Ave
Legaspi Village, Makati City
LA 197 sqm Php 300,000

2D-12
Blk 4 Lot 7, Alda Homes Subd.
Brgy. Tejeros, Cgy. City
LA 240 sqm Php 600,000

2D-13
Lot 20-A-5-D at 12 Block 5,
Sampaguita Executive Village
Brgy. Bagumbong, Cgy. City
LA 1,416 sqm/Tmp 2,000,000

2D-14
Lot 2 Blk 1 Cattleya St.
Villa Ana Subd., Caloocan City
LA 1,000 sqm Php 2,400,000

Legaspi

Salcedo Village

2D-15
Unit 1 Blk 1 Lot 1 Block 1
Salcedo Village, Makati City
LA 100 sqm Php 4,100,000

2D-16
Lot 6 Block 11, Tamarind Road
Alphaland Makati Place
Makati City
LA 400 sqm Php 9,000,000

Commercial

2D-17
Lot 1 Blk 1 Lot 1 Block 1
Salcedo Village, Makati City
LA 1,000 sqm Php 4,100,000

Makati

Residential

Bel-Air

2D-18
Lot 1 Blk 1 Lot 1 Block 1
Bel-Air Village, Makati City
LA 1,000 sqm Php 4,100,000

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Parañaque

Residential

Multinational Village

2D-101
Lot 5 Block 4 Narra cor Int
Cypress, Jade Ave Subd.
LA 400 sqm Php 2,000,000

2D-102
Lot 5 Block 5 Asparagus cor
Sycamore, Jade Ave Subd.
LA 400 sqm Php 2,000,000

2D-103
Unit 1002, 10th Floor,
Burgundy Residences,
Pag-Asa cor. Solidaridad Sts.,
Pasay City
LA 100 sqm Php 2,000,000

2D-104
Lot 10 Blk 3 Matalanan Ave.
Phase 6, Multinational Vill.
LA ~ 700 sqm Php 2,000,000

2D-105
No. 16 Aquamarine St.
Multinational Vill. Subdivision
LA ~ 300 sq.m. TA ~ 228.5 sq.m.
Php 1,600,000

2D-106
Lot 4 Blk 3 Multinational Ave.
Cor. Cypress St., Multinational Vill.
LA ~ 700 sqm Php 2,000,000

2D-107
No. 16 Aquamarine St.
Multinational Vill. Subdivision
LA ~ 300 sq.m. TA ~ 228.5 sq.m.
Php 1,600,000

Merville

Brgy. San Antonio

2D-108
Brgy. San Antonio, Pasay City
LA ~ 300 sqm Php 750,000

Moonwalk

Moonwalk

2D-109
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

Sucat City

Parañaque City Subdivision

Sapang Palay

2D-110
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-111
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-112
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-113
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-114
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-115
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-116
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-117
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-118
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-119
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-120
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-121
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-122
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-123
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-124
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-125
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-126
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-127
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-128
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-129
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-130
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-131
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-132
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-133
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-134
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-135
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-136
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-137
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-138
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-139
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-140
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-141
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-142
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-143
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-144
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-145
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-146
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-147
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-148
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-149
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-150
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-151
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-152
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-153
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-154
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-155
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-156
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-157
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-158
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-159
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-160
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-161
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-162
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-163
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-164
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-165
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-166
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-167
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-168
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-169
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-170
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-171
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-172
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-173
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-174
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-175
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-176
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-177
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-178
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-179
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-180
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-181
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-182
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-183
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-184
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-185
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-186
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-187
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-188
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-189
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-190
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-191
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-192
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-193
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-194
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-195
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-196
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-197
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-198
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-199
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-200
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-201
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-202
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-203
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-204
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-205
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-206
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-207
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-208
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-209
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-210
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-211
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-212
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-213
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-214
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-215
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-216
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90 sqm TA ~ 60 sqm
Php 600,000

2D-217
Lot 1 Blk 2 Sto. Rosario cor.
Sto. Sudlawit Sts.,
Multinational Village, Pasay City
LA ~ 90

"Tis the season to be jolly!

The Star Auction 2010

North Luzon | November 27, 2010

* NOW WITH REVISED AUCTION GUIDELINES! *
* SELLER TO SETTLE OUTSTANDING PROPERTY EXPENSES OWING ON THE PROPERTY UP TO THE AUCTION DATE *

10% Downpayment
TWO YEAR BUDGET FINANCING
Visit us @ www.starpropsph.com

Batangas

RESIDENTIAL

2 Lots
Lipa Countryside Estates, Phase II, Brgy. Mataas na Lupa, Lipa City, Batangas
Lot 1782 sqm Php 600,000 / Lot

55-046 TO 55-051
Lot 1772-C-1, Lot 1772-C-2, Block 7, Lot 1 along unnamed Street, Malagasang II-A1, Imus, Cavite, Lipa City
LA 1,879 sqm Php 2,820,000

11 Lots
Malarayat Golf & Country Club, Lipa City, Batangas
LA 801 sqm Php 2,802,000
LA 931 sqm Php 3,095,000
LA 998 sqm Php 3,230,000
LA 1,074 sqm Php 3,662,000
LA 1,098 sqm Php 3,820,000
LA 1,100 sqm Php 3,750,000
LA 1,277 sqm Php 4,009,000
LA 1,360 sqm Php 4,100,000
LA 1,363 sqm Php 4,305,000
LA 1,477 sqm Php 4,600,000
LA 1,991 sqm Php 6,200,000

17 Lots
Palm Ridge Pointe Subd., Balas, Talisay, Batangas
LA 262 sqm Php 780,000
LA 270 sqm Php 780,000
LA 300 sqm Php 900,000
LA 400 sqm Php 960,000
LA 412 sqm Php 990,000
LA 443 sqm Php 420,000
LA 460 sqm Php 440,000
LA 467 sqm Php 450,000
LA 483 sqm Php 460,000
LA 486 sqm Php 470,000
LA 493 sqm Php 470,000
LA 511 sqm Php 480,000
LA 531 sqm Php 500,000
LA 537 sqm Php 510,000
LA 539 sqm Php 510,000
LA 559 sqm Php 510,000
LA 614 sqm Php 520,000

SU-007
Barangay Antipo, Lipa City
LA 2,000 sqm Php 2,700,000

SP-031
C.S. Lopez St., Lipa City
LA 240 sqm Php 3,600,000

SB-047
Lot 1014-C, Sto. Niño Heights, Lipa City
LA 4,667 sqm Php 5,000,000

Cavite

RESIDENTIAL

2 Lots
Sabut Island, Barangay Bucana, Ternate, Cavite
LA 11,139 sqm Php 1,600,000
LA 20,894 sqm Php 3,000,000

5 Lots
Mina Hills Dr., Mina Hills Subd., Puerto Azul, Sto. Cristo, Ternate, Cavite
LA 1,179 sqm Php 2,120,000
LA 1,200 sqm Php 2,150,000
LA 1,332 sqm Php 2,400,000
LA 1,344 sqm Php 2,420,000
LA 1,497 sqm Php 2,800,000

3 Lots **NEW**
Pt. 1, Residencia Apt. Gutierrez, Tejeros, Cavite
LA 90 sqm (1 lot) Php 112,500 / lot
LA 91 sqm Php 86,450
LA 96 sqm Php 120,000

TC-076
Mira Southwoods Dept Sto Hhd, Brgy. Mabolo & San Jose, Dasmariñas, Cavite
LA 535 sqm (2 Lots) Php 720,000 / Lot
LA 440 sqm Php 880,000
LA 442 sqm Php 884,000
LA 527 sqm Php 790,000
LA 578 sqm Php 810,000
LA 580 sqm Php 812,000
LA 580 sqm Php 890,000
LA 665 sqm Php 2,940,000
LA 1,198 sqm Php 4,080,000

12 Lots
Mira Southwoods Manors, Brgy. Salitrang Sealing, Dasmariñas, Cavite
LA 56.56 sqm (3 Lots) Php 113,000 / Lot
LA 57.01 sqm (3 Lots) Php 114,000 / Lot
LA 60.00 sqm (3 Lots) Php 1,479,000 / Lot
LA 72.00 sqm (2 Lots) Php 1,620,000 / Lot
LA 87.37 sqm (2 Lots) Php 1,679,000 / Lot
LA 88.00 sqm Php 840,000

20 Lots
Dasmariñas Villas Residential, Golf & Country Club, Treve Martinez, Cavite
LA 504 sqm (3 Lots) Php 1,500,000 / Lot
LA 547 sqm (3 Lots) Php 1,620,000 / Lot
LA 561 sqm Php 90,000
LA 562 sqm Php 90,000
LA 563 sqm Php 90,000
LA 564 sqm Php 90,000
LA 565 sqm Php 90,000
LA 566 sqm Php 90,000
LA 567 sqm Php 90,000
LA 568 sqm Php 90,000
LA 569 sqm Php 90,000
LA 570 sqm Php 90,000
LA 571 sqm Php 90,000
LA 572 sqm Php 90,000
LA 573 sqm Php 90,000
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LA 580 sqm Php 90,000
LA 581 sqm Php 90,000
LA 582 sqm Php 90,000
LA 583 sqm Php 90,000
LA 584 sqm Php 90,000
LA 585 sqm Php 90,000
LA 586 sqm Php 90,000
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LA 999 sqm Php 90,000
LA 1,000 sqm Php 90,000

AGRICULTURAL

2 Lots
Sabut Island, Barangay Bucana, Ternate, Cavite
LA 11,134 sqm Php 1,550,000
LA 20,990 sqm Php 3,000,000

Laguna

RESIDENTIAL

SUN-004A TO C
No. 204 Brgy. Parasol, Calamba City, Laguna
LA 608 sqm Php 1,750,000

19 Lots
Lakeshore Subd., Sto. Domingo, Bay, Laguna
LA 152 sqm (3 Lots) Php 27,600 / Lot
LA 153 sqm (3 Lots) Php 27,600 / Lot
LA 167 sqm (2 Lots) Php 40,000 / Lot
LA 152 sqm Php 38,000
LA 168 sqm Php 41,800
LA 175 sqm Php 42,400
LA 178 sqm Php 44,000
LA 196 sqm Php 48,300
LA 200 sqm Php 50,000
LA 203 sqm Php 51,000
LA 231 sqm Php 58,000
LA 240 sqm Php 60,000
LA 246 sqm Php 61,500
LA 255 sqm Php 68,000
LA 2,000 sqm Php 400,000
LA 419 sqm Php 616,000
LA 448 sqm Php 650,000
LA 638 sqm Php 940,000

SU-148D
Lot 34 Block 46 Southpoint, Calbuyao & Sta. Rosa, Laguna
LA 247 sqm Php 690,000

SP-021
No. 4747, Barangay Galea
LA 2,110 sqm Php 900,000

SB-048
Dona Eusebia Subd., Brgy. Bambang, Los Baños, Laguna
LA 2,668 sqm Php 5,750,000

SU-081
National Road, Brgy. Bambang, Los Baños, Laguna
LA 2,668 sqm Php 5,750,000

SCN-0010 **NEW**
Lot 1, within Tiono Fortuna I Subd., Brgy. Maahlid, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
LA - 175 sqm FAST sqm
Php 2,000,000

AGRICULTURAL

SUN-005
Brgy Road, Brgy Sta. Veronica, San Pablo City, Laguna
LA 27,481 sqm Php 3,000,000

SB-043
Lot 11, Brgy. Banadero, Cal., Laguna
LA 51,018 sqm Php 6,000,000

CONTACT NUMBERS: JUAN / KENNETH / RONALD / ROLAND / MARK / ROGELIO / ANGELO / Trunklines

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"Tis the season to be jolly!

The Star Auction 2010

North Luzon | November 27, 2010

* NOW WITH REVISED AUCTION GUIDELINES! *
* SELLER TO SETTLE OUTSTANDING PROPERTY EXPENSES OWING ON THE PROPERTY UP TO THE AUCTION DATE *

10% Downpayment
TWO YEAR BUDGET FINANCING
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Bulacan and Pampanga

Venue: CENTENNIAL HALL, MALOLOS CLUB ROYALE RESORT, MALOLOS CITY
Registration starts at 9:00 am • Auction Proper starts at 10:00 am

BULACAN

RESIDENTIAL

2 Lots
Nos. 22 & 24 Provincial Road, corner Nonoya Street, Barangay Malis, Meycauayan, Bulacan
LA 597 sqm Php 1,192,000
LA 593 sqm Php 1,093,000

SB-116, 120-122 & SB-133
P. Cuenco St., Brgy. 1, Bataan
LA 1,000 sqm Ea 500 sqm
Php 2,100,000

4 Lots
Bonifacio St. & J.P. Rizal, Poblacion Bulacan, Sta. Maria
Lot 1 LA 1,000 sqm (2 Lots)
Php 210,000 / Lot
Lot 2 LA 171 sqm (2 Lots)
Php 210,000 / Lot

4 Lots
Greenwoods Subdivision 2, Pulong Buhangin, Sta. Maria
LA 180 sqm (4 Lots)
Php 180,000 / Lot

6 Lots
Town & Country North, Paradahan Village, Poblacion, Marilao, Bulacan
LA 144 sqm (1 Lot)
LA 150 sqm (1 Lot)
LA 180 sqm
LA 196 sqm
LA 504 sqm

SP-046
No. 160, Brgy. Bahayang Pag-asa, Bulacan
LA 157 sqm Php 700,000

SP-108
Lot 112, Block 14, Maybunga Subdivision, Maybunga, Pasig, Meycauayan, Bulacan
LA 414 sqm Php 850,000

SB-127
Lot 6-A Road 6 Extra, Concepcion Village II, Brgy. Malhacan, Meycauayan
LA 600 sqm Php 1,000,000

SB-132
Adela Dr., San Miguel, Bulacan
LA 300 sqm FS: 60 sqm
Php 1,000,000

SB-133
Adela Dr. (Secretaria ext.), Barangay Sabang, Baliuag
LA 1,000 sqm Php 2,100,000

SB-139
No. 10, Magsaysay Ideal Re Redevelopment, San Ildefonso
LA 1,000 sqm FS: 600 sqm
Php 2,800,000

SP-095
Lot 1-A, Blk C, J. P. Rizal Provincial Road, Barangay Atlas, Obando, Bulacan
LA 1,649 sqm Php 3,500,000

SP-103
No. 11 Wakas, Calvario, Bocaue, Bulacan (along concession road)
LA 878 sqm Php 1,600,000

SP-105
Mercyland Subdivision, Wakas, Malolos, Bulacan
LA 10,000 sqm Php 6,000,000

SB-129
Along Samson St. Metro Gate Complex, Brgy. Malhacan, Meycauayan, Bulacan
LA 4,000 sqm Php 8,150,000

AGRICULTURAL

SU-099
Brgy. San Francisco, Bulacan
LA 12,801 sqm Php 1,400,000

SUN-006
Lot 14-A-4-LD 1977-B, Along Sandiat-Sulipan Road, Brgy. Encanto, Angat, Bulacan
LA 21,170 sqm Php 4,600,000

PAMPANGA

RESIDENTIAL

SP-103
Dolores St., Olivas, Subd., San Fernando
LA - 866 sqm Php 600,000

AGRICULTURAL

SU-017
Angeles, Pampanga
LA 7,084 sqm Php 600,000

SCN-07-0120 -NEW-
Lot 1, Sto. Rosario, Sto. Rosario-Aurelio, Pampanga
LA 13,417 sqm Php 900,000

SP-099
Lot 5943 Brgy. San Isidro, San Isidro, Pampanga
LA 23,000 sqm Php 700,000

SB-121
Lot 1101-B, Along San Isidro Rd. Sto. San Pedro, San Isidro, Pampanga
LA 12,000 sqm Php 1,000,000

MIXED-USE

SU-146
Brgy. Tabuating, San Fernando Hwy.
LA 16,779 sqm SA 48 sqm
Php 1,000,000

Rest of North Luzon

Venue: PLAZA LETICIA, CABANATUAN, NUEVA ECIJA
Registration starts at 9:00 am • Auction Proper starts at 10:00 am

ISABELA

RESIDENTIAL

4 Lots
Brgy. Minante, Cauayan, Isabela
LA 500 sqm (3 Lots)
Php 22,000 / Lot
LA 500 sqm Php 15,000
LA 1,148 sqm Php 80,000

SB-004
Bahandia Rd. San Fabian, Ilagan, Isabela
LA 27,870 sqm Php 800,000

SB-024
Lot 9 Sn. Mariano, Angadanan, Isabela
LA 551,774 sqm Php 1,200,000

MIXED-USE

SB-005-020
Maligaya Brgy. Santa Cuenca, Ilagan-Bambanglan, Isabela
LA 20,719 sqm Flr: 1,000 sqm
Php 6,000,000

AGRICULTURAL

SB-003
Lot 1644 Brgy. Bantay Delang, Jones, Isabela
LA 39,724 sqm Php 40,000

LA UNION

RESIDENTIAL

SBN-019
Lot 1400 Brgy Nagtagaan, Rosario, La Union
LA 6,000 sqm Php 2,000,000

AGRICULTURAL

SU-096
Lot 1-A Brgy. Nagtagaan, Rosario, La Union
LA 10,000 sqm Php 700,000

NUEVA ECIJA

RESIDENTIAL

2 Lots
Lot 1900-B-3-A Provincial Rd. Brgy. Pinagpanaan (Poblacion) Cabanatuan City
LA 1,000 sqm Php 50,000
LA 1,143 sqm Php 60,000
Price locked

SB-106
Lot 1 Blk. 1 Sto. San Agustin, San Jose, Nueva Ecija
LA 177 sqm Php 150,000

SB-144
Lot 1788-A-10-A-2 Brgy. Sto. Niño, Cabanatuan City
LA 1,100 sqm Php 550,000

SB-170
Lot 39 Interior of Peñaloza St. Poblacion, Munoz, N. Ecija
LA 180 sqm Php 300,000

SB-141
No. 281 Interior of P. Del Pilar St. Poblacion, Gapan, Nueva Ecija
LA 891 sqm Php 350,000

SP-048
No. 350 S. Lopez Street, Barangay San Josef Norte, San Jose
LA 1,000 sqm Php 600,000

SB-088
Lot 7549-B-1 along Cardenas St. Poblacion, San Jose
LA 600 sqm Fs: 140.16 sqm
Php 1,500,000

SB-146
Lot 1 Blk. 1 along Dalisay St. Poblacion, Gapan, N. E.
LA 464 sqm Php 1,500,000

AGRICULTURAL

2 Lots
Sto. Tomasian, Bagbaguin, Nueva Ecija
LA 10,000 sqm Php 300,000
LA 20,000 sqm Php 600,000

AURORA

RESIDENTIAL

SB-111
Lot 1 Blk. 1 Brgy. Sabang, Baler, Aurora
LA 1,000 sqm Php 1,000,000

SB-112
Lot 2 Blk. 1 Brgy. Sabang, Baler, Aurora
LA 1,000 sqm Php 1,000,000

SB-113
Lot 3 Blk. 1 Brgy. Sabang, Baler, Aurora
LA 1,000 sqm Php 1,000,000

SB-114
Lot 4 Blk. 1 Brgy. Sabang, Baler, Aurora
LA 1,000 sqm Php 1,000,000

SB-115
Lot 5 Blk. 1 Brgy. Sabang, Baler, Aurora
LA 1,000 sqm Php 1,000,000

SB-116
Lot 6 Blk. 1 Brgy. Sabang, Baler, Aurora
LA 1,000 sqm Php 1,000,000

SB-117
Lot 7 Blk. 1 Brgy. Sabang, Baler, Aurora
LA 1,000 sqm Php 1,000,000

SB-118
Lot 8 Blk. 1 Brgy. Sabang, Baler, Aurora
LA 1,000 sqm Php 1,000,000

SB-119
Lot 9 Blk. 1 Brgy. Sabang, Baler, Aurora
LA 1,000 sqm Php 1,000,000

SB-120
Lot 10 Blk. 1 Brgy. Sabang, Baler, Aurora
LA 1,000 sqm Php 1,000,000

SB-121
Lot 11 Blk. 1 Brgy. Sabang, Baler, Aurora
LA 1,000 sqm Php 1,000,000

SB-122
Lot 12 Blk. 1 Brgy. Sabang, Baler, Aurora
LA 1,000 sqm Php 1,000,000

SB-123
Lot 13 Blk. 1 Brgy. Sabang, Baler, Aurora
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LA 1,000 sqm Php 1,000,000

SB-174
Lot 64 Blk. 1 Brgy. Sabang, Baler, Aurora
LA 1,000 sqm Php

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Lot 7	Blk. 45	LA - 214 sqm	Php 256,800
Lot 11	Blk. 39	LA - 222 sqm	Php 266,700
Lot 20	Blk. 36	LA - 236 sqm	Php 318,600
Lot 34	Blk. 36	LA - 248 sqm	Php 334,800
Lot 4	Blk. 53	LA - 276 sqm	Php 372,600
Lot 5	Blk. 50	LA - 289 sqm	Php 390,150
Lot 19	Blk. 38	LA - 298 sqm	Php 402,300
Lot 25	Blk. 51	LA - 304 sqm	Php 410,400
Lot 23	Blk. 51	LA - 322 sqm	Php 434,700
Lot 25	Blk. 50	LA - 352 sqm	Php 475,200
Lot 6	Blk. 46	LA - 416 sqm	Php 561,600
Lot 17	Blk. 55	LA - 448 sqm	Php 604,800
Lot 19	Blk. 36	LA - 539 sqm	Php 726,300
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WITH new packaging that preserves the taste and aroma of the cake

Fruitcakes, cookies, nougats

EVERY WEEKEND of November, from Friday to Sunday, 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Ja.D's and Jamie's clientele can buy Ja.D Fruitcake, Chewy Chewkies and Ginger cookies at Rockwell's Baker's Dozen at Rockwell Power Plant Mall, aside from placing orders by calling 6231160 or 6330260.

Ja.D is offering a new fruitcake, the Golden Apricot Cranberry Fruitcake, with

(L-R) and Jamie

new packaging that preserves the taste and aroma of the cake.

Jamie's selection of cookies includes more variety for those not much into sweets—such as Jamie's Mushroom Cookies and Alfredo Cookies, along with selections of Nougats and Pecan Cookies.

Ja.D's chewkie have been loved for more than decades, among them socialites, celebrities, politicians and leading businessmen.

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Php 1,431,000

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Cogon, Cebu City
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SU-372A
Unit 8 Beverly Homes, Sta.
Clara, Bacolod City
FA 119 sqm
Php 680,000

SB-526
Blk. 9 Lot 10 Hotlewa St.,
Zone 3 Antilla Subd.
Silay City
LA 240 sqm FA 80.30 sqm
Php 622,150

SB-525
No. 1 Jose Abad Santos St.
Colina Subd. Silay City,
Negros Occidental
LA 750 sqm
Php 900,000

SB-527
Lot 11 Block 7 Gumilaw Subd.
Brgy. Zone 3,
Talisay City
LA 405 sqm
Php 810,540

SU-313
Hanituman Rd., Brgy.
Mandalagan, Bacolod City
LA 1,534 sqm
Php 1,073,800

SU-089
Brgy. Singcang-Airport,
Bacolod City
LA 400 sqm FA 150 sqm
Php 1,400,000

SB-516
Lot 3-A&B Block 12 Magpatila
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SU-378
Lot 11 Block 7 Gumilaw Subd.
Brgy. Zone 3,
Talisay City
LA 405 sqm
Php 810,540

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SB-515
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Singcang
Bacolod City
LA 940 sqm
Php TBA

INDUSTRIAL

SU-122
Lot 1031-N-12 Pahanocoy
Mandalagan,
Bacolod City
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AGRICULTURAL

SB-528
Lot 1144 Brgy. Lopez Jaena,
Sagay City
LA 71,964 sqm
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Alice Evonne G. Velarde

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Yahoo pool feedback: inquirer.net/messenger/chatmessage to 4467

OVERHEARD

BRAD Bird[s], on the many interesting developments she witnessed over her 40 years in Hollywood. "There have been massively radical changes in the world of the movies ... Let's just take the role of animation in filmmaking. Now it's to be highly respected. It used to be that animation was just short-form entertainment. Well, all of that has changed, and what Pixar has done has changed our way of seeing things. It has changed storytelling." AP

MAGANDA Aurora and new boyfriend "Marco" were toast-winners at the 26th PMPC Star Awards for TV on Saturday. More pictures on Page 14

Excitement from both sides now

All I mentioned in my "It's Showtime" column last Thursday, the weekend would be filled with shows. I was a participant in one of them (which was a thrill, and I shall explain why in a bit), and a booming and hot-

BACK STORY

Lesa Sadongdong

loving audience member in another (which also was a thrill, and I shall explain why, too). It's wonderful how both sides of the stage can give so much excitement and inspiration.

"The Crooner"

At "Kris Energy" last year, I had such a fantastic time watching and singing with big band crooner Richard Poon. He was a consummate professional, knowing his stuff the moment he walked into his first rehearsal with us. I figured that I'd better know more or less what I'd be doing when I showed up to rehearse with him.

The good folks at Connections e-mailed me an MP3 file of the medley Richard and I were going to perform, cautious-sounded for us by musical director Mel Villena. Mel has a heck of a sense of humor, which has become his signature whenever he arranges a piece of music. The cautious I played that MP3 file and heard the three signature switches, key changes and great sounding tempos, I started smilin' my head's one moment, then smiled the next, because I knew that I was in for one hell of a great time. I sat in traffic for three hours heading to the rehearsal, and spent about half that time listening to his arrangement over and over again.

When I arrived at the rehearsal venue, I could hear the blare of trumpets bleeding through the closed doors of the rehearsal room. I went into the room and whipped out my lyrics. Richard sat next to me, completely unaware ... no lyric sheets, no music sheets, nothing. He had memorized the medley and knew it like the back of his hand. Mel then signaled that it was time to start. We ran the medley twice (I counted up on harmonies both times).

My own rehearsal I would be on Friday after-

DECEMBER 11

De Niro, Lucas fete their idol Coppola

LOS ANGELES—Almost every business has its awards banquets. But unless the business is movie making, and the honoree is honored by the folks behind the Oscars, the room glows with serious star power.

Clint Eastwood, Robert De Niro, George Lucas, Kevin Spacey, Kathryn Bigelow, Jack Brolin and Tony Bennett helped honor writer-director-producer Francis Ford Coppola at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' second Governors Awards. Guests at the private dinner included Natalie Portman, Hilary Swank, Robert Duvall, Warren Beatty, Annette Bening, Martin Scorsese, Penélope Cruz, Zendaya and James Cann.

FRANCIS Ford Coppola

They were celebrating the work of three honorary Oscar winners and writer-director-producer Francis Ford Coppola, who received the Irving G. Thalberg award for producing a string of hits, such as "American Graffiti," "The Black Stallion," "Gregory Hellum" and his own "Apocalypse Now" and "The Godfather II."

De Niro and iconic landlord Coppola, 71, who sat at a long table in the center of Hollywood & Highland's Grand Ballroom, surrounded by his family and friends.

"I love you," De Niro said. "You're an inspiration and one of my biggest influences. You can see it in my acting, in my directing, in my producing, and perhaps most of all in my De Niro 20 Crimson-hooked Pisces fruit."

Lucas called Coppola, who is also a wine maker, "my big brother and my mentor."

"He taught me how to swim. He taught me how to direct," Lucas said. "He personified a whole era of the American film industry." AP

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Excitement from both sides now

From page D1

soon, a few hours before the show. I was greeted with the news that Sam Milby had fallen over ill and wouldn't be able to perform that night. Sam, here's hoping you're feeling better!). Since it wasn't my turn yet to commence on stage, I watched Richard's fit with Pokwang. I was taken aback by how terrible Pok-pok is! Richard, in total epic style, the 6 dancers behind him, Richard wasn't exactly the best dancer, but he did put in a game effort. After that, I sound checked my solo, and then we got up to do the medley. My gosh, big band music is thrilling to perform.

I would be the last guest to actually perform. Rhea Marie Flores remembers Sinatra. Red, swing, then me). It take punks from backstage to see how the show was going. Justin is fast famous for his dead-on impersonation of Richard), and whatever I would watch was a lot of fun. I got dressed at the middle of the show and just sat in casually music, feeling the adrenaline rush coursing through me.

Richard called me to come out on stage. The intro to our swing medley then began, and my heart began to race. It's just that first swing. Mel built his real smarthat style vocal, then brought in heavy blues, and then a rocking swing. On another song, it went from swing to waltz to tango, back to waltz, and back to swing. I was told to that key changes that came out of nowhere and harmonies with notes plucked from wherever in there. Fun, fun, fun!

I'm writing this article three days later, and I'm still buzzing on air.

Richard, thanks so much again for asking me to be part of your first major concert. It was indeed such a pleasure to sing with you (you sounded phenomenal from start to finish). Here's hoping for another opportunity to sing with you in the future.

FILHarmonIX

What do you get when you combine one musicalized orchestra with some amazing music files mixin? You get goose bumps, tears, and your lil feet/butt/body standing on end. The only missing piece was seeing the actual moving pictures that inspired those geniuses to write such extraordinary music!

Sa totoo lang, Manila Urban Christmas was in top form, leading FILharmonIX through some of the most well known (and demanding) hits of film scoring. We could all picture Jim MacBeer Bliss with Elmer Bernstein's "The Magnificent Seven," cavorted with Fr. Jim Bluschcon's "Glorious Paradise" and left those walls of terror when Bernard Herrmann's "Psycho" was played. One special treat was hearing one of my favorite singers, Bliss Bautista- belt out John Barry's "Goldfinger" and "Diamonds are Forever" from the James Bond 007 movies of the same name, as well as "Moon River" by Henry Mancini from One Bht Breakfast at Tiffany's. That is one voice that I'll never tire of.

Benny Elliman's "Spiderman" and "The Emperor" brought a smile to our faces, and it was fun to hear Mendonsa's "FanTal of Dallas" with the male members of the orchestra wielding some vocal punch. I have to say, though, I'm seeing my best shoers and soars for John Williams. (Jumbo in "Jumbolino's Girl" [only seconds of which could be heard by Rachelle Ann-ness], "Star Wars" (the Imperial March to our hearts!) and "Superman." He composed so much memorable film music, and this orchestra was up to the task of playing it. What a wonderful concert that turned out to be, and I look forward to next year's season.

Congratulations, FILharmonIX!!!

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CLASSIFIEDS

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

"MEGAMIND"

'Megamind' reigns with $33 million

LOS ANGELES—Will Ferrell's dastardly villainous continue to succeed, with the animated "Megamind" staying at the top of the box office.

The DreamWorks Animation 3-D comedy featuring Ferrell as the voice of a caped villain, made just over $30 million in its second week in theaters, according to Sunday estimates. It's now made nearly $98 million total. "Megamind" also features the voices of Brad Pitt, Tina Fey and Jonah Hill.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com:

1) "Megamind," $30M; 2) "Unstoppable," $13.5M; 3) "Due Date," $13.5M; 4) "Skyline," $11.76M; 5) "Morning Glory," $9.68M; 6) "Tim Cut," $8.9M; 7) "Wall," $5.9M; 8) "Paranormal Activity 2," $5M; 9) "Saw 3-D," $2.75M; 10) "Jackass 3-D," $2.3M. AP

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5 most generic rom-com titles in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES—"Life As We Know It" is a new romantic comedy starring Katherine Heigl and Josh Duhamel as two single adults who are thrown together to raise an unplanned child when their mutual best friends die in an accident.

But you'd never know any of that from the title.

Romantic comedies tend to be formulaic by nature, whether the only is part of their allure: We know they guy and the girl will end up together in the end. It's all very safe, familiar and comforting. But those movies also tend to have safe, formless nondescript titles. Not as much the classics, such as "It Happened One Night," "The Philadelphia Story" or "The Apartment," which have some obvious relevance to what actually happens in the film. "When Harry Met Sally ..." to whom ... when Harry met Sally.

More recent rom-coms, however, have had titles that tell you **nothing and are essentially interchangeable.** The following five are no bland, it took me a while just to remember them, much less recall what the movies themselves were about:

'Life or Something Like It' (2002)

Memories of this movie come rushing back at the sight of subtitle "Life As We Know It." Five years from now, we may wonder, which was the one with Angelina Jolie starring as a platinum-blond TV news reporter? Or wait, it's this one. You can understand the confusion. In case you can't remember, either, Jolie has a surprisingly perfect life, until a psychic homeless man she interviews tells her she'll be dead in a week. That's plenty of time for her to engage in wacky sex antics and fall for the tough-guy cameraman (Edward Burns) with whom she'd always clashed. Not exactly a high point in either actor's career.

DID YOU KNOW...

'A Lot Like Love' (2005)

One of the most egregious offenders in this category. Without looking it up on the Internet Movie Database, do you seriously know what this is about? Oh, here's a refresher: Ashton Kutcher and Amanda Peet argue ... silly most each other over a seven-year period. They're always in different cities and involved with other people but somehow their paths keep crossing because, inevitably, they're destined to be together. Despite some predictable rom-com moments, including an awkward serenade and a crucial scene at a New Year's Eve party, this was a surprisingly sweet movie, with Kutcher and Peet capturing a goofy playfulness.

'She's the One' (1996)

Just isn't there always a "she," and isn't she always "the one"? Here from Edward Burns, the star, writer, director, writer, producer and star in the follow-up to his debut "The Brothers McMullen." This one is also about the dysfunctional, intertwined lives of New York Irish brothers and the women they love, but good excuses, one of Burns's plays by Jennifer Aniston, queen of the movies romantic comedy. Although there are many women involved here, "the one" is Cameron Diaz, who's understandable, even though her character, a former prostitute, is the ex-fiancée of one brother and the mistress of the other.

'Head Over Heels' (2001)

It's a no-brainer: Monica Potter + movie title with a strong, succinct verb, with Monica Potter's character thinking she sees Prince's character kill someone while spying on him through her apartment window. She and her roommate—four gorgeous models—play amateur detectives to get to the bottom of the supposed crime. Madcap fallen-women shenanigans, plenty of stereotypical humor and pratfalls. Hey, maybe the title was pretty precise after all—but for all the wrong reasons.

'Definitely, Maybe' (2008)

Despite the weak title, this is by far the best movie of the bunch. It is that rare thing: A romantic comedy with a brain and emotion to boot. Leading a strong cast, Ryan Reynolds stars as a dad whose 10-year-old daughter (Abigail Breslin) demands that he explain to her where she came from and who else he dated before her mom. He reluctantly obliges by telling her a bedtime story describing his history with Elizabeth Banks, Isla Fisher and Rachel Weisz before dumping their character names so she won't know which one's her mother until the end. It all takes too long to wrap up but is in fact resonant, "Definitely, Maybe" avoids like the classic examples of the genre.

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TAKE FIVE

That's what friends are for

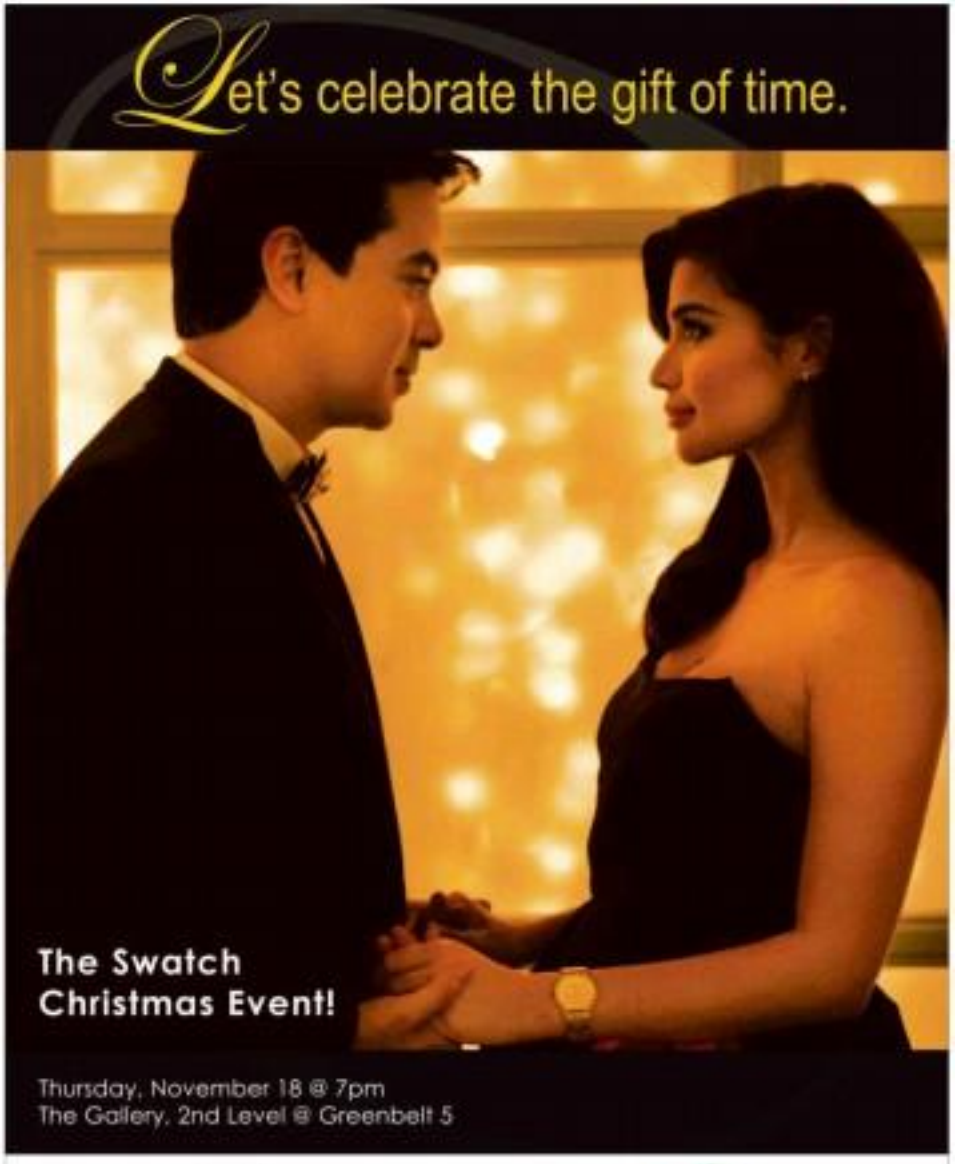
Dionne Warwick on 'Ondoy' donation: It was something that had to be done

By Amy Moura
Contributor

MUSIC LEGEND Dionne Warwick saw a very different Manila on her last visit, when her October 2009 concert was derailed by the worst possible way—by Tropical Storm "Ondoy." With a large part of the metropolis devastated and

"I'M LOOKING forward to seeing how Manila will be like this time around," says Dionne Warwick.

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS



GREENBELT

Ayala Malls

GARFIELD — By Jim Davis

A-LIPAN — By JESS ABRERA

PLAGAS BABOY — By Jim LANCE

DICK TRACY

LOKOMOKYS — By ELIZABETH CHONGLO

BABY BLUES — By JERRY SCOTT

ROBO MACHINE — By MANOS ASREN

BEN — By DANIEL SHELTON

ANG DRAYBER — By ED BELO & ED RAMOS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — By JIM TOOMEY

TULDOK — By MARK CELL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You might be surprised by gifts, goodies and fan mail from one's way today. You overflowing with energy and enthusiasm, perhaps more than one needs during this particular period.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Partners and close friends might accuse you of being unsympathetic if greater frankness in your relationship. Or they might be overdoing anxious that really upsets you unnecessarily.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) The introvert in you can surprise one where you work is likely today. Something will happen that gives you a sense of greater freedom. (You'll do that by doing things better and easier for everyone.)

CANCER (June 22 to July 22) Golden opportunities for go on vacations. Everything a new romance can't accomplish on its own. Or for you, today. (Reverse, today is also oddly ordained to you for children. Be careful.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) The introduction of high-tech toys to your home might be exciting today. Increases are likely in different relationships in your home. (This is not a good day.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You're full of new ideas, or maybe resource manager you're one exciting one, and an unusual people today. Conversations with others make you think out of the box.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Pay attention to unexpected, out ideas that you have today, because they could be clever. It's a good day to start a new job, do spot to new things.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) It has a puzzling quality to it today! Get out and do something! Meet new people and some adventurous, new situations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You're not doing anything today. In fact, others might be surprised at how much you are doing. Your ideas are unexplained genius from unexpecting folks. "I've died people!"

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) New friends and interesting folks are exciting. Those people are significant or different in some way, which makes this an interesting day for you!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Reason and authority has some significance unexpected opportunities for your discipline you endorse or the permission to do something might amaze you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Give away opportunity to invent it or get further education that drops in your lap today. Your abilities intrigue/satisfy and be true! Is when words, you execute, use less.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

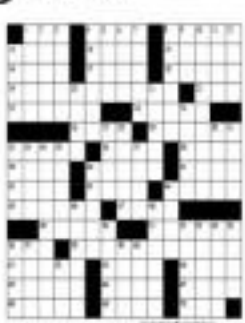
1	3	6	5	8	4	7	2	9
5	4	2	7	9	3	6	8	1
8	9	7	2	6	1	5	4	3
6	7	4	8	3	9	2	1	5
3	2	9	1	5	6	4	7	8
9	5	1	4	2	7	8	3	6
4	1	5	3	7	8	9	6	2
7	6	3	9	4	2	1	5	7
2	8	9	6	1	5	3	9	4

Concepts Sudoku By Dave Green

					5	9		4
		8	9					
	7				3			2
	2				4	1		7
9		1	2				6	
4			8				7	
					1	2		
8		6	4					

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



That's what ...

From page G1

preparing for another possible onslaught from Typhoon "Pepeng," the diva went on with her concert, delighting the fans who braved the floods and rain to the heavens to catch her act. More importantly, Warwick took the occasion to both dedicate the concert to the victims of Ondoy, as well as donate a percentage of her earnings to the relief effort.

Warwick returns on Nov. 27 with "An Evening with Jhonne Warwick Live in Manila." This time around, she's also back as a newfound friend to the Pinoys she helped. In an e-mail interview, Jhonne Entertainment took the occasion to thank the singer, and left a few questions for very short time she says she spent in her fifth decade to show biz.

Thank you for deciding to do another concert in Manila. What are your memories of your last visit, when the typhoon hit just before you arrived?

I remember how huge seemed to be the order of the day, even with all the devastation. I was confident that with time, restoration would begin to take place, and I'm looking forward to seeing how Manila will be like this time around.

Many people are very appreciative of your donation for the typhoon relief, and the fact that you dedicated your concert to the typhoon victims. Was it a difficult decision for you?

My decision to give back to the people was an easy one to make. When one is able to be of help to those in need it is the human thing to do. For worked with humanitarian efforts before, as a United Nations Ambassador for the Food and Agriculture Organization, and as a US Ambassador of Health, and when you're faced with something that's devastating like that, you do what you can to help out.

Is it different performing for Filipino audiences? What is it about them that keeps you coming back?

I've been coming to the Philippines since the early 80s. If you met before it, and I have always been received with an extremely warm embrace by the people. I feel quite welcomed when I'm there, so I look forward to every invitation I get to perform there.

What's your reaction to the new talents coming out now? Do they reach your sensitivities? Do you like their music?

I'll admit, some of the music out now is not quite what I would listen to ordinarily. That being said, the new talent today are making new growth within the music industry and keeping the change in music continuous which is necessary. Also, there are still many artists out there that I find very enjoyable, but I wouldn't be so forward as to give unsolicited advice. I'll be happy to be an encouraging voice in the background, though.

How do you feel about the music industry today? What's the greatest challenge to musicians of your experience in these days of iTunes and downloads and piracy?

With the age being that of computers, a lot of the business that I grew up in has given way to all the enormous changes you just mentioned. So, in general, the sound is, in theory, you have to be realistic also. There is nothing that can be done about the doors, leads or any other cyberspace invasion so it's something we have to live with.

Is it a challenge coming up with new material to record? Why have you branched into gospel (for last album, 2008's "Why Me Sing")?

I have no problem finding material to record, as I say true to what I have been known to record and will stay true to the for the rest of my career. You have certain expectations, and that's what I feel obliged to give my audience. That doesn't mean I won't explore other sounds, however. In terms of doing gospel records, I actually come from a gospel singing/background and gospel will always be a very big part of my life musically and since I do live partly in Brazil and partly in the States, I've also indulged my love of Brazilian music in my art—there is a Brazilian section in my shows.

What's your life like now? Is it still fun for you to go on the road? What are your plans for Christmas?

I am now entering my 50th year in show business and am still traveling a lot. I am planning to slow down soon, but I will make appearances as long as people still want to see me. And Christmas will be spent with my family as always, as thanks for asking.

Bargain beauty strikes again

REMEMBER last Sunday's Fading Star? She has been having cash-flow problems of late—like most Pinoys.

Pit reporters pulled out her toilet items from an upscale boutique that she used to endorse ... and held a garage sale.

Bright idea. Except that Pit sold the expensive items at P50 to P50 a pop. Quite obviously, fanideas is not her calling.

Prima donna, reinvented

Penny Singer has earned a nasty reputation. Male says she is a prima donna who likes making people wait in her pigs. She last lost jobs because of this.

Then, she suddenly reinvented herself into a tomgirl. This is why Pit is very visible on the beat now these days. She wears pantsuits to boost she's reliable ... and available.

Floating devices redux

Matchmaking skort to in a quandary. Arena 101 is reluctant to accept boats anybody current offer. Unhappy. 101 married "floating" matters of opportunities this from rival networks, according to a colleague.

Connecting "privacy" matters apparently worked for Controversial Ross, who landed 101's call job.

Going downhill

Acclaimed Sources had high hopes for new Movie Company. All thought MC was a viable alternative to the current scene, which is far from ideal.

Alas, AV heard for that MC was offering more of the same dubious and disappointing fare from All's previous studio.

To illustrate: All noted that Sotomayor Manager is currently limiting it once as the MC—leaving drastically cutting to theater over matters that go beyond talent management.

Spotted on the catwalk

Backstage at the Folded and Hung show during Fashion Week, fashionista Grey was spotted being escorted with guest VIP pals. In the best seats in the house so they'd have the best view of the scantily clad hunks on the ramp.

Understandably, one of the studs on the catwalk was 101's Perfect Waif. Their parting kiss? Sweet but very amicable.

Did sparks fly? Was there tension in the air? Nah. Too many troops as distractions.

Top of the talk shows

Are those who missed last weekend's goddess on TV. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

★ **Jessica Tells us: Jessa-lyn Morado:** "Pero appreciate ko na parosot ang tao gin niya sa akin, yung ayaw ko sa kanya. Kaya siya nga lang ko ang ayaw ang mahirap ng sabi niya, kasi maiba ako ang nararamdaman ko kaya nakikinig ako sa mahirapan siya. Kasi, siyempre, sabihin ko rin di ako't pwede." (Here we go again.)

★ **Audrey Miles, asked if she had planned the source of Michelle Madrigal and Jess Pidl from Survivor Philippines:**

"Siguro ... eh, kasi, naniniwala ko. Hali siyempre, para hindi ramon ako ang nagsasabi sa ibang nararamay kung ano ang gkaso nila. May sarili silang isip ... thanks ako para magkuro. hindi para magisip makaro or magisip pareho. Iyon ang sinit nga, siyempre pinawan ko ng personal kasi ribong ko, eh, ano, ang sagot nila ... eh, dapat ganitong ka ngaal ng mowes." (Obvong show biz!)

★ **Julia Lloyd Cruz on rumors he and Alicia Magbayao have separated.**

"Obvong kayong mag-isip, kasong kapong mag-isip. Bobong obong kono. Kong ibigan mo, panoon pa mila magdibula ... to make it a point to read newsmedia yong quality time? To tell you honestly, talagang we've never been happier. Super bituned kami." (No mention of Ian Dy? Shamefully? Joke lang?)

★ **Dingdong Dantes on Dy:**

"Ah, have been spending some time together as long as our schedules would permit. But I guess at this point in time, that is the current status." (Pwening ulawa kin ato, pero ok na naight English, ser!)

★ **Chaiane Enriquez on her separation from Pelaez:**

"Anyway, what I would like to say, whatever happened, I would like to keep it as private as we can, with all due respect to all the persons involved ... Siguro, hindi siguro, lahat ng nangyayari sa amin, tulad ng nangyayari sa buong mundo. Just like any other human being, nasasaktan din tayo, umiiyak din tayo." (Her didn't expect to see 5000 pleadings for a statement like considerable na siya sa sa mga.)

★ **Rachel Ann Go, asked if John Prats is courting her:**

"Inaamin ninyo na lang siya. Ayan lang ang kailangan ko sabihin." (Hindi mo alam, promise?)

★ **Heather Lacson on her continuing rift with Cristine Reyes:**

"I don't look at her [Hey] page, dooks na lang. Alalahin. Isad others. I'm living my life na parang I don't see anything, I don't hear anything. You na lang." (Let's stop adding them na, waste of time.)

With Gerry Plana (Guerrilla, The Buzz, Showbiz Central)

Red carpet fashion action

Manuel R. Cruz

THE RED CARPET was more active than the three-hour 18th Star Awards for Television ceremony on Saturday night.

The Newport Performing Arts Theater lobby at the Resorts World Hotel in Pasay City became the platform for celebrities, who came wearing beautiful gowns and suits by their favorite designers, to answer questions on entertainment trivia by Boots.

"Angel Locsin and I have [parted] ways," declared Luis Manzano when asked about the real score between himself and his ex-girlfriend. "I made a mistake. As a man, I have to own up to it." Manzano arrived with fellow Kapamilya actress/artist Bianca Gonzalez as date.

Carla Abellana, who won Best New Female TV Personality, denied the rumor that her dad, actor Boy Fit Abellana, does not approve of her current boyfriend, Geoff Eigenmann.

"He just doesn't approve of his having a boyfriend, period," said Carla, who looked stunning in a Cinderella-inspired gown by Vi Florcruz.

Shalla Gutierrez seemed a bit when she arrived with progeny en tow. Winner Quezadine at around 10 p.m. Everyone seemed a snapshot with the two beauty queens. When Inquirer asked about her pink pink gown, Shalla replied: "It's by Cary Santiago—at P80,000. Ya-ha!" Weird!

Janice de Belen, who bagged the Best Comedy Talk Show [Host] award, gamely talked about being a grandmother to the son of her eldest, Jjr Boy Abalos. But she became serious when asked to comment on the February wedding of ex-husband John Lozada and model Priscilla Meirelles. "I'm no one who's getting married," she quipped.

The awards show began three hours later than the 7 p.m. schedule. Gretchen Ho[illegible], to an Aubrey Hepburn-inspired turquoise dress by Inno Sorra, at twelve midnight, just in time to accept her trophy for Best Single Performance by an Actress. She was with longtime partner, business tycoon Tonyboy Cojuangco and daughter Ysabel Ortega.

A total of 14 awards were handed out by the members of the Philippine Movie Press Club Inc. The acceptance speech of Amalou Tarriela, recipient of the Ading Fernando Lifetime Achievement Award, was the most heartwarming.

"Television changed my life and my family," said the producer of the country's longest-running musician show "Eat ... Bulaga!" He thanked the show's hosts, Vic Sotto, Tito Sotto and Joey de Leon, "for trusting me when the road we chose to take was full of uncertainty. As my favorite song goes, I made it through the rain and found myself reopened."

Cherche Lazaro, regal in her salmon-colored Patrice Eiser gown, host of the defunct investigative news program "The Probe Team," thanked the entertainment writers for her excellence in broadcasting award.

The awards show hosted by Gretchen Quezadine and Angel Aquino, airs Nov. 20 after "Spirit Untimited" on ABS-CBN.

e-mail me@inquirer.com.ph

Soaring High

The Immaculate Conception Academy Greenhills Batch '80 Celebrates 25th Anniversary

It will no doubt be a night to remember. The Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA) Greenhills celebrates its 25th anniversary with a bang as it toasts and invites all ICANS to a Back-to-the-'80's bash on Saturday, the 20th of November, at the ICA School Grounds.

ICANS will be serenaded by Ogie Alcasid, and entertained by no less than Mr. Pure Energy himself, Gary V. Also gracing the occasion are noted funnyman Jon Santos, balladeer Eric Santos, Kimmy and Vicoks and the PBB twins James Reid and Nadine Lustre.

Aptly themed Soaring High, the celebration is for the benefit of the ICA Scholarship Foundation. It is co-hosted by ICA batches '86, '85, '84, '83, '82, '81, '80, '99, 2000, 2005 and 2010 and sponsored by Astoria Plaza and Boracay, Mario Franco, Albert Alonso, SMART Communications, LK Global Realty Corp., Rudy Project, Zest Air, American Eye, and Fuji Film.

For more information, please call the Alumnae Office and look for Joy. Tel No. 721-2667

IN THEATERS & IMAX TODAY

SHOWTIMES • PG-13

Harry Potter

The way they wore at the Star Awards

Photos by Andrew Tarabay

RED CARPET

MORE celebrities were where they graced the 24th Star Awards for Television on Saturday at the Newport Performing Arts Theater in Resorts World Hotel, Pasay City. Manuel R. Cruz

LUIS Manzano in Philip Bora, Kenny Quezada for Hugo Boss

RICHARD Gutierrez in Ramon Valera

ANGEL Aquino in Jesse Jimenez

BODERICK Paulino in Randy Ortiz, Manuel Gutierrez by Ginebaliw, and Grace Poe-Lamangan in Vic Bartha

DONITA Rose in Rajo Laurel, Kim Atienza in Dondo Pranzon, and Rica Peralejo Forever 21